MONDAY
June 5, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.132

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

Is JEE 2024 going to be your Last Attempt for JEE Advanced ?

If Yes, witness how joining a FIITJEE Classroom Program for XII Pass Students to prepare for another attempt of JEE Advanced* (& JEE Main*) proved to be life-changing for these students

*Last 5 years

See the Rank Improvement in JEE Advanced

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **197**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **5395**

All India Rank - 1 in JEE Main in 2nd attempt

Vaibhav Vishal
Student of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT Bombay

I, Vaibhav Vishal, joined FIITJEE in 2020, for One year classroom Programme as a 12th pass out. I haven't joined any courses in any other institute. The teachers were super helpful & explained each & every topic in detail. The syllabus was completed in time & our doubts were answered patiently by teachers. This gave me ample time to practice & revise the concepts, for which again I am thankful to the proper test system of FIITJEE which includes regular quizzes, phase tests, AITS's, AIITS's with concept recapitulation tests in between.

I owe my success to FIITJEE only. Vaibhav Vishal

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **236**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **1407**

Atulya Sharma
Student of Computer Science at IIT Kharagpur

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **430**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **4314**

Aditya Yadav
Student of Computer Science at IIT Bombay

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **700**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **2658**

Aarya Talgaonkar
Student of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT Delhi

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **720**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **14715**

Raghav Garg
Student of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT (BHU) Varanasi

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **755**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **9853**

Anubhav Gupta
Student of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT (BHU) Varanasi

All India Rank in 2nd attempt **953**

All India Rank in 1st attempt **19031**

Mudit Bhardwaj
Student of Computer Science & Engineering at IIT (BHU) Varanasi

You can be the Next
Set Your **RANK**

Set your **IIT & Branch**

See more success stories from our Classroom Program for XII Pass Students

In JEE Advanced

AIR **135**

Gaurav Kumar
at IIT Kanpur

AIR **427**

Prashant Mishra
at IIT Delhi

AIR **430**

Aditya Yadav
at IIT Bombay

AIR **504**

M S Chandra Reddy
at IIT Guwahati

AIR **520**

Harshit Pant
at IIT Hyderabad

AIR **603**

Shashwat Gupta
at IIT Kanpur

AIR **640**

G Raghavender Reddy
at IIT Hyderabad

and many more...

In JEE Main

AIR - **100**

L Tarun Kumar
at IIT Madras

AIR - **137**

M S Chandra Reddy
at IIT Guwahati

AIR - **210**

G Raghavender Reddy
at IIT Hyderabad

AIR - **288**

Siddhant Rajoriya
at IIT Delhi

AIR - **310**

Vikas
at IIT Guwahati

AIR - **396**

Mudit Bhardwaj
at IIT (BHU) Varanasi

AIR - **434**

Prashant Mishra
at IIT Delhi

and many more...

Dear Students, with FIITJEE's 360° approach to success, you can transform your Rank from 500 to Top 20, 5000 to Top 200, 10000 to Top 500 & 20000 to Top 1000 or even better, and if JEE Advanced 2024 (after completing Class XII in 2023) is your first attempt even then you will get your best possible transformative All India Rank.

✓ Small batch size for effective learning ✓ Unravelling 100% potential of every student ✓ Excellent Teaching Methodology and concept wise tracking of every student
✓ Comprehensive doubt resolution ✓ Well-researched study material & world class faculty ✓ Iconic All India Test Series with concept strengthening & test analysis sessions ...*& much more*

Join FIITJEE's **ONE YEAR EXTENDED CLASSROOM PROGRAM**

(also available in Live Online Mode through FIITJEE eSchool)

Give yourself an ideal start for an optimum success in JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024

FIITJEE Talent Reward Exam (FTRE) *for* XII Pass Students

11th June 2023

Cash Scholarships + Fee Waivers for FIITJEE program + Hostel Fee Waivers worth about Rs. 10 Crores
(Subject to Terms & Conditions)

FTRE is extremely crucial for all Students aspiring for success in JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024, as it gives them a concept-wise analysis of their performance, Rank Potential Index (RPI) for JEE Main & JEE Advanced, and insights into understanding the gaps in their preparation & what they need to do to reach their Full Potential.

The Exam will be conducted through both Offline as well as Proctored Online mode | **Last Date to Register :** 9th June 2023 | **Registration Fee :** Rs. 500/- (including GST) | **www.fiitjee-ftre.com**

Transforming Performance !

FIITJEE

31 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

Please turn over...

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads & NTSE

Admission cum Scholarship Tests: 18th June (XI, XII & XII Pass), 25th June (XII Pass), 2nd & 16th July (XI & XII Pass), 30th July (XII Pass)

The Test will be conducted through both Offline as well as Proctored Online mode | **Last Date to Register :** Two days before the respective Test Date | **Registration Fee :** Rs. 500/- (including GST) | To register, visit **https://admissiontest.fiitjee.com**

MONDAY
June 5, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.132

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

INVESTIGATION ON

56 turtles killed in fire in Kerala

SOUTH » PAGE 7

HYDROELECTRIC POWER

Arunachal scraps 44 deals with private players

NEWS » PAGE 12

OBITUARY

Maoist leader Katakam Sudarshan passes away

SOUTH » PAGE 7

THE WRESTLER PROTEST

The marked absence of citizen activism

It points to a changing Indian sensibility

EDITORIAL » PAGE 8

RECORD 17TH TIME

Djokovic storms into French Open quarters

SPORT » PAGE 15

Railway Board alleges 'signalling interference', seeks CBI probe

Commissioner of Railway Safety completes investigation; Minister says root cause of collision found to be a problem in electronic interlocking; people responsible for the error identified; Board says sabotage has not been ruled out

Satyasundar Barik
Abhinay Lakshman
Maitri Porecha
BHUBANESWAR/NEW DELHI

Fast-paced work: Workers busy restoring the track at the accident spot at the Bahanaga railway station in Balasore district of Odisha on Sunday. BISWARANJAN ROUT

The Railway Board has recommended a probe by the Central Bureau of Investigation into the devastating multi-train collision in Balasore district of Odisha, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Sunday. The Board said that "signalling interference" had been identified as the main cause of the accident, which claimed 275 lives and left more than 1,000 injured. It added that sabotage had not been ruled out.

"Keeping in mind the circumstances and administrative information received so far, the Railway Board is recommending a CBI inquiry for further investigation into the incident," Mr. Vaishnaw told presspersons in Bhubaneswar on Sunday evening.

At the accident site, he said the Commissioner of Railway Safety had completed its investigation. The root cause of the collision had been identified as a problem in electronic interlocking, the operational signalling system for this stretch of track, he said. People responsible for the error had been identified.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
32 FROM STATE RETURN
» PAGE 4

Rail accident death toll lowered to 275

Satyasundar Barik
BAHANAGA

Two days after a multi-train collision in Odisha's Balasore district, relatives continued a frenetic search for the remains of their loved ones among the bodies stacked at hospitals, the accident site and makeshift mortuaries.

On Sunday, the Odisha government put the death toll at 275, lower than the 288 declared on Saturday, saying that some bodies had been counted twice.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

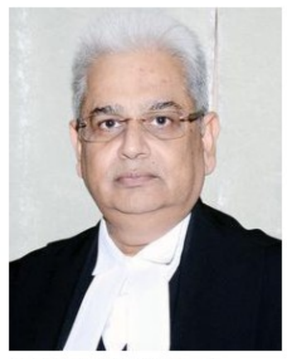
Three-member panel to probe ethnic violence in Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Sunday appointed a three-member Commission of Inquiry headed by Ajai Lamba, former Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court, to investigate the ethnic violence in Manipur that has claimed 98 lives so far and displaced over 35,000 people.

A notification issued by the Union Home Ministry said that the "Commission shall submit its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than six months from the date of its first sitting". Its headquarters will be in Imphal.

The other two members of the commission are Himanshu Shekhar Das, retired IAS officer from the 1982 batch of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, and Aloka Prabhakar, a 1986-batch retired IPS officer of the Telangana cadre.



Justice Ajai Lamba (retd)

The terms of reference of the commission said that it would inquire into the causes and the spread of the violence and riots targeting members of different communities, the sequence of events and whether there were any lapses or dereliction of duty on the part of any of the authorities or individuals responsible.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

NEARBY

Marginal rise in use of plastic bags

BENGALURU
The COVID-19 pandemic dealt a blow to every sphere of life, including the implementation of the ban on the use of single-use plastic bags, which has marginally increased in Bengaluru. » Page 4

Electricity bills to be dearer

BENGALURU
The electricity tariff for June will be up by ₹2.89 per unit, owing to fuel and power purchase cost adjustment (FPPCA), as well as arrears from April, for Bescom consumers. » Page 4

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 17

VAJIRAM & RAVI
Institute for IAS Examination
NEW DELHI | CHENNAI

Ishita Kishore
AIR-01

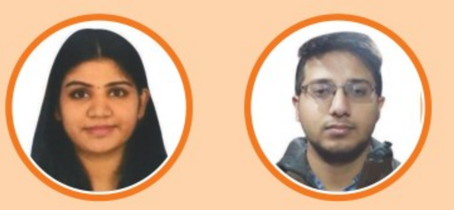
Garima Lohia
AIR-02

Uma Harathi
AIR-03

Hearty
CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR STUDENTS FOR PASSING
THE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION 2022
WITH FLYING COLOURS

At Vajiram & Ravi, we're proud to announce that our students have once again produced outstanding results in the Civil Services Exam 2022. Vajiram & Ravi has been producing AIR 1 in the Civil Services Exams almost every year for more than 20 years. Over 600 students have been selected in the CSE 2022. These ranks are proof that hard work and dedication assure the desired results.



Smriti Mishra
AIR-04

Mayur Hazarika
AIR-05

Kanika Goyal
AIR-09

Rahul Srivastava
AIR-10

Abhinav Siwach
AIR-12

Vidushi Singh
AIR-13

Kritika Goyal
AIR-14

Swati Sharma
AIR-15

Shishir Kumar Singh
AIR-16

Siddharth Shukla
AIR-18

Laghima Tiwari
AIR-19

Anoushka Sharma
AIR-20

DELHI CLASSROOM & LIVE-ONLINE BATCH BEGINS FROM
14TH JUNE 2023

CHENNAI CENTRE CLASSES BEGINS FROM
22ND JUNE 2023

REGISTRATIONS OPEN

BANANA BRANDWORKS

JOIN OUR COURSES AND ADD YOUR NAME TO THE LIST OF UPSC TOP RANK HOLDERS

New Delhi Centre: 9-B, Bara Bazar Marg, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi - 110 060. Ph: 011 - 41007400 | **South Regional Centre:** 43, 2nd Floor, Haddows Road, Nungambakkam, Chennai - 600 006.
New No. 62, P Block, 6th Avenue, Anna Nagar, Chennai - 600040. Ph: 044 - 4330-2121 | Email: online@vajiramandravi.com | Website: www.vajiramandravi.com & vajiramias.com

ANDROID APP ON Google play | Download on the App Store

Leaders of Asia, Indian juniors now target the World

However, the players and coach agree that there is a long way to go before being ready for the global event to be held in December; they also know that there is room for improvement on fitness front

Homecoming: The Indian men's hockey team that won the Junior Asia Cup received a warm welcome on its arrival in Bengaluru on Saturday. *Right:* Araijeet made quite an impact in the final with brilliant moves. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan

We are the best in Asia; we had to prove it and live up to it; we deserved to win this – these were the recurring motifs from the narrative the Indian junior men's hockey team set about for itself throughout the Junior Asia Cup, even before the title-clinching win against Pakistan.

It wasn't arrogance but belief in the work the team – the players and the staff – had put in in the 18 months prior to the outing in Oman since finishing a disappointing 4th at the 2021 Junior World Cup at home. Six from that December outing in Bhubaneswar were on the field in Oman, including captain Uttam Singh – a lanky soft-spoken forward from Uttar Pradesh with refreshing candidness – and with an entirely revamped coaching staff led by veteran C.R. Kumar, the difference was as much mental as physical.

"We are the leaders now (in terms of the number of titles won in the competition) and we want to be that always. At the moment it is in Asia, next step is to be out there among the best at the World Cup," Kumar declared after the final. It is a mindset that has rubbed off on the players as well. "We learnt from our mistakes. We scored 50 goals in the tournament. The next best was Pakistan with 35. We conceded only four, two of them against Pakistan only. We were not lucky; we earned this," Uttam was clear.

Trusting the process

The assertiveness is not just in words. On field, goalkeeper H.S. Mohith was a replica of his idol and senior P.R. Sreejesh, pumping and punching the air, constantly alert to every move across the turf and moving himself to cover all possible angles, guiding his teammates and bringing off some incredible saves – deservedly awarded the goalkeeper of the tournament. There was a smoothness in every move the team made, a coordination that comes from hours of working together and trusting each other. And trusting the process.

It's the favourite term in modern sports for elite teams and individual athletes and as much a stand-in for long-term goals as a refuge for poor results, depending on the situation. For the Indian boys, though, it was about going through the same actions over and over and over again to ensure every plan got executed on field as much through muscle memory as conscious effort.

It isn't easy. The Indian system has been top-down for a long time with the best of resources, manpower and planning reserved for the national teams and rarely trickling down all the way to the grassroots. And we are still a long way from the cohesion through the ranks seen in the European teams. But it has at least managed to reach the junior team levels. Which means that the 18 who triumphed in Salalah, training alongside the seniors and in the same system, knew how to rein in their individuality in pursuit of a bigger goal.

That was the reason the two Indian goals in the final came off moves that saw Araijeet Singh Hundal and Angad Bir Singh playing feeders to each other after themselves receiving the ball from Aditya and Sudeep Chirmako respectively. Make no mistake, these youngsters are skilled and intelligent – Hundal, Angad and Boby Singh Dhami have been marked as ones to look out for. Chirmako and Uttam himself are no mugs inside the circle, keenly aware of positioning and space. Vishnukant Singh and Shardanand Tiwari have already earned promising senior spurs. But the big takeaway from the Asia Cup was their composure.

The difference was visible in the two finalists. Pakistan is never a pushover, in any sport at any level, specially when it is up against India. A final between the rivals is even more special and the opponents pushed hard. But there was no question on which was the better team on the day, and it was not just about skills or talent.

The difference was in the structure and planning. For India to not earn a single foul in a high-pressure game was a testament to its discipline, something coach Kumar insisted on. A veteran of Indian hockey and being in various coaching roles – seniors and juniors, men and women and a stint with Malaysian hockey as well – Kumar has seen the sport evolve from close quarters.

"Hockey is like an electronic product now, there is always something newer every day – in technology, in ideas, in creativity, in plans, in skills. These boys are intelligent but it's my job to make sure they are up to date with whatever is happening in world hockey," he says. It's a far cry from the times he started assisting way back in the late 1990s, when coaching meant more a pep talk than anything else.

Even when Pakistan pulled one back, the Indians stuck to their template. There were mistakes, sure, but the boys did not get rattled or desperate. They fortified their defence, stayed clean and made occasional forays into the attack, one of which almost got a third goal for India in the dying minutes. Aerial balls, a prominent feature of the senior team as well, were used effectively. Composure and discipline were the key. It may not have been the most attractive performance but it worked.

The archrivals, on the other hand, were more traditional, which is to say fast, individually brilliant and skilful. They threatened every time they ran up with the ball – but most moves petered out for lack of support. It was exciting to watch with little result – something that Indian hockey itself struggled with for years. Even though they had been training under Siegfried Aikman for a while before the Dutchman quit for not having been paid for more than a year, and had Roelant Oltmans as a newcomer in their corner, the lack of exposure and experience showed in their coordination, with India's superior physical fitness playing a key role.

It isn't all great, though. Both the players and coach agree that there is still a long way to go before the team is ready for the Junior World Cup in December this year in Malaysia, which hosted the 2009 edition – also the last time the event was held outside India. While conditions were tough, the Indians know that there is room for improvement on the fitness front. "We were tired and when we made mistakes, we knew we were making them but couldn't stop it," Uttam has admitted.

The team also needs to cut down on turnovers and improve possession. What they got away with in the Asia Cup will be punished at the World Cup by the stronger European and Oceania sides. The forwards, good as they are, need to get sharper. Penalty corner conversion needs to improve. But for now, the leaders of Asia are in a good space. And hungry for more.

Svitolina and Monfils — pushing each other to fight their best fights

Nihit Sachdeva
CHENNAI

Elina Svitolina could be watched cheering Gael Monfils from the stands as the Frenchman pushed himself to fight before eventually going down to Matteo Berrettini in five sets on a floodlit Rod Laver Arena at last year's Australian Open in Melbourne. Similar visuals, with roles reversed, warmed the hearts of tennis fans around the world on Friday as Monfils and Svitolina's coach Raemon Sluiter saw the Ukrainian come from a set down to beat Anna Blinkova 2-6, 6-2, 7-5 in third round of French Open on Court Simmone-Mathieu.

The couple has returned to Grand Slam tennis in Paris after missing the last four Majors. Both, husband and wife, have gone through different journeys in the past year-and-a-half and supported each other along the way.

The world of Svitolina and many other Ukrainians turned upside down in late February last year when Russia invaded their country which Russian President Vladimir Putin called a "special military operation" to support the Russian-controlled breakaway republics of Donetsk and Luhansk, whose military forces had been fighting Ukraine in the Donbas conflict.

A few days later, Svitolina, after initially refusing to play against her Russian opponent Anastasia Potapova in the first round in Monterrey, came out dressed in Ukraine's blue and gold colours and won the match 6-2, 6-1. Post the win, she said, "I think it's my mission to unite our tennis community to stand with Ukraine, to help Ukraine because what we're going through is a horrible thing for all Ukrainians.

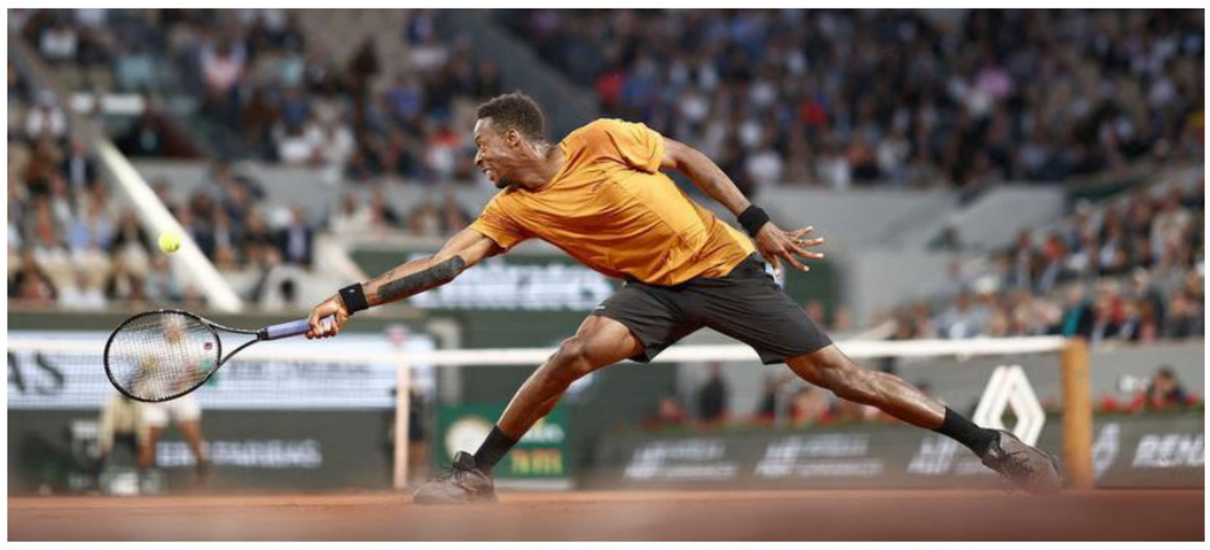
"That's why I'm here. That's why I'm playing for my country and doing my best using my platform and using my resources to introduce that and try to invite people to support Ukraine."

Former World No. 3 Svitolina has been outspoken on the subject ever since. She has advocated for a complete ban on Russians and Belarusian athletes for the 2024 Paris Olympics and refuses to shake hands with her opponents from these two countries after a match, as was the case against Russia's Blinkova.

"I am Ukrainian. I am standing for my country, doing anything possible to support men and women who are right now in the front line fighting for our land, our country," Svitolina said.

"Can you imagine the guy or girl in the front line looking at me and I am acting like nothing is happening?"

Svitolina was also going through a major change in her personal life in the last one year. The couple, who got married just before the Tokyo Olympics, welcomed a baby girl – Skai – in October. It would not have been easy for Svitolina to return to Tour-level tennis in Charleston this year after not playing since the Miami Open a little more than 12 months ago.



Through thick and thin: Monfils has struggled to find his rhythm since his return from injury in March. The lives of Svitolina and many other Ukrainians turned upside down in late February last year when Russia invaded their country. AFP

"Well, I just try to play match by match. I was coming here without any expectations, you know. Coming back after giving birth is extremely complicated. But I am really motivated to go further in this tournament and have some really tough opponents. So, it is a matter of recovering and being ready for the next battle," she said, after her win over Blinkova.

Yet, her performance at the ongoing French Open and the title-winning run in Strasbourg the week before has shown the kind of fighter she is. A fourth-round match against ninth-seeded Daria Kasatkina, another Russian, proved to be a big test but the Ukrainian held on for a 6-4, 7-6(5) win to reach the French Open quarterfinals for the fourth time in her career.

Injury struggles

Monfils is one of the remaining members of the 'New Musketeers' of French tennis with the other being Richard Gasquet after Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and Gilles Simon bid farewell last year. La Monf pulled out of last year's home Slam due to a right foot injury, came back to Tour-level tennis in Canada and sustained the same injury again in the third round. Only this time, things got worse and the 36-year-old could not play for the next seven months.

The 6'4" Frenchman, a former World No. 6, is known for his unusual sliding technique, athleticism and showmanship. Struggling to find his rhythm, he could not win a single Tour-level match this year since his return in Indian Wells in March. However, those aspects of his game were on display in front of the home fans in the night session match at Roland-Garros on Court Philippe-Chatrier on Tuesday.

Monfils seemed to be suffering from cramps late in the fifth set against a much younger opponent in Argentina's Sebastian Baez and trailed 0-4. Yet, in the next 11 minutes, the local favourite, smiling in the face of adversity, won four consecutive games to level the score, leading to surreal scenes as the Parisian crowd and Monfils himself broke into the national anthem, La Marseillaise. Monfils beat Baez 3-6, 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 7-5 to set up a second-round clash with Holger Rune.

However, the much-anticipated fixture scheduled to be held during the night session on Thursday, could not take place as Monfils pulled out of the tournament due to a wrist injury.

Monfils said, "I'm not really sure what I feel, but it's more than being disappointed. How many [more] Roland-Garros will I play? That's the question. I don't know what the answer is. How many will I play?

"For the time being I'm trying to digest this."

While it would have been harsh to expect a lot from Monfils, the fact that the younger generation of French tennis failed to show up raises a lot of questions.

No French player reached the third round this year, something which has happened only once before in the Open Era.

Monfils and Svitolina both have been each other's support system since they announced their relationship in 2019.

Be it the Ukrainian standing up for Monfils after he got racially abused post the 2020 Italian Open or the Frenchman being there for her as she struggled to deal with the war situation at home, both former junior Grand Slam champions have faced challenges together and will continue to do so.

Innovation, Sincerity, Ethics, Consistency & Hard Work once again produce great results

in JEE Main 2023

All India Rank **4** — Perfect Score 300 / 300

Malay Kedia

Joined Four Year Classroom Program in Class IX and after Class X upgraded to PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI - XII)

All India Rank **7**

Mohana S. Reddy E

UDAYA - One Year Classroom Program (Class VIII) + FIITJEE World School (Class IX - X) + PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI - XII)

All India Rank **13**

Nipun Goel

PANINI - Two Year Integrated Program (Class XI - XII)

All India Rank **18**

Abhineet Majety

FIITJEE World School (Class IX - X) + PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI - XII)

All India Rank **19**

Rishi Kalra

Four Year Classroom Program (Class IX - XII)

5 in Top 20 All India Ranks & 25 in Top 100 All India Ranks captured by FIITJEE Students | **12 State Toppers** | **14 City Toppers**

Long Standing Legacy of Extraordinary Results

- ✓ FIITJEE has produced the highest number of selections from Classroom Programs in IIT-JEE (JEE Advanced) in India consistently for the last 26 years - right since 1997
- ✓ FIITJEE has produced the highest number of selections from Classroom Programs in JEE Main right since its institution i.e. 2013
- ✓ Besides this, we have been consistently producing toppers and leading results in Boards, NTSE, Junior & Senior Olympiads
- ✓ **FIITJEE is the only Institute to capture All India Ranks 1, 2 & 3 in JEE Advanced / IIT-JEE from Classroom Programs Twice in history.**

JEE Advanced 2021

All India Rank **1**

Mridul Agarwal
Student of Intensive Contact Program (Class XII)

All India Rank **2**

Dhananjay Raman
Student of UDAYA - Two Year (Class VII - VIII) + Four Year Classroom Program (Class IX - XII)

All India Rank **3**

Anant Lunia
Student of Three Year Classroom Program (Class X - XII)

IIT-JEE 2012

All India Rank **1**

Arpit Agrawal
Student of ASCENT - One Year Classroom Program (Class X) + Two Year Classroom Program (Class XI & XII)

All India Rank **2**

Bijoy Singh Kochar
Student of ASCENT - Two Year Classroom Program (Class IX & X) + PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI & XII)

All India Rank **3**

Nishanth N Koushik
Student of PINNACLE - Two Year Integrated School Program (Class XI & XII)

Results are from Common Merit List only.

Admission cum Scholarship Tests: 18th June (XI, XII & XII Pass), 25th June (XII Pass), 2nd & 16th July (XI & XII Pass), 30th July (XII Pass)

The Test will be conducted through both Offline as well as Proctored Online mode | **Last Date to Register :** Two days before the respective Test Date | **Registration Fee :** Rs. 500/- (including GST) | To register, visit **https://admissiontest.fiitjee.com**

Class IX, X, XI, XII & XII Pass Students

Unable to join our Classroom / Live Online Classroom Programs ?

Here is your chance to attain the FIITJEE advantage through our Non-Classroom Programs !

Computer Based ALL INDIA TEST SERIES — THE ORIGINAL ONE

With Live Online Concept Strengthening Classroom Program (CSCP) by FIITJEE Delhi Centres + Multidimensional Analysis of Performance + 24/7 accessible Online Test Series for JEE Main & JEE Advanced with deep concept-wise analytics & insights

FIITJEE's Computer Based All India Test Series (XII & XII Pass) for **JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024**	FIITJEE's Computer Based All India Integrated Test Series (XI & XII) for **JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2025**
Last Date to Enrol & Fee*	**Last Date to Enrol & Fee***
• 31st Jul. 2023 | Rs. 17,000/-	• 31st Jul. 2023 | Rs. 20,500/-
• 30th Sep. 2023 | Rs. 18,000/-	• 30th Sep. 2023 | Rs. 21,500/-
• 10th Nov. 2023 | Rs. 19,200/-	• 30th Nov. 2023 | Rs. 22,000/-

RANKERS STUDY MATERIAL — THE IDEAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

with All India Test Series (AITS)

One Year (XII & XII Pass) Program for **JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2024**	Two Year (XI & XII) Program for **JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2025**
Last Date to Enrol & Fee*	**Last Date to Enrol & Fee***
• 20th Jun. 2023 | Rs. 27,800/-	• 20th Jul. 2023 | Rs. 32,800/-
• 20th Jul. 2023 | Rs. 28,300/-	• 20th Sep. 2023 | Rs. 33,800/-
• 20th Aug. 2023 | Rs. 28,800/-	• 20th Oct. 2023 | Rs. 34,800/-
• 30th Sep. 2023 | Rs. 29,300/-	

JUNIOR RANKERS STUDY MATERIAL — THE IDEAL CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

One Year (X) Foundation Program for NEET, JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2026 plus Excellence in School, Boards, Jr. Science Olympiad, NTSE	**Two Year (IX) Foundation Program** for NEET, JEE Main & JEE Advanced 2027 plus Excellence in School, Boards, Jr. Science Olympiad, NTSE
Last Date to Enrol & Fee*	**Last Date to Enrol & Fee***
• 31st Jul. 2023 | Rs. 14,500/-	• 31st Jul. 2023 | Rs. 18,000/-
• 31st Aug. 2023 | Rs. 15,000/-	• 31st Aug. 2023 | Rs. 18,500/-
	• 30th Sep. 2023 | Rs. 19,000/-

*(including GST)

To cement the concepts, All India Test Series, Rankers Study Material & Jr. Rankers Study Material include myPAT - **Online Test Series (Accessible 24/7)** for all your targeted exams.
Students can also join myPAT - **Online Test Series (Accessible 24/7) directly** | **Enrol at www.mypat.in** | **Sign up for a 14 day Free Trial now !**

Note : Students can join our Non-Classroom Programs in the future also as there will be further enrolment dates. However, a student's takeaways from FIITJEE will get reduced accordingly. | To know the various enrolment dates, the complete AITS schedule, scholarships on AITS / RSM fee based on achievements in various scholastic / competitive exams and to enrol online, visit www.fiitjeenonclassroomprograms.com | **Helpline (for Non-Classroom Programs) : 011-4182 8706, 2696 5626, 2686 5182** | **e-mail : query.ncrp@fiitjee.com**

Where winning is a habit !

FIITJEE

31 YEARS OF INNOVATION, SINCERITY, ETHICS, CONSISTENCY & HARD WORK

Bangalore Centres - HSR Layout : 119, S. S. Plaza , 13th Cross, 6th Sector, Outer Ring Road, HSR Layout, Bangalore - 560 102 Ph: 080 - 49149900, 8904795799, 9742288873, 9513745155
Jayanagar : 162, 36th Cross Road, 7th Main Rd, 5th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru - 560041 Ph : 9742255583 | **Web: www.fiitjeebangalore.com** | **Hostel Facility Available**

National Admissions Office: FIITJEE House, 29-A, Kalu Sarai, Sarvapriya Vihar, New Delhi Web: www.fiitjee.com Buy books at www.megacosmcognitions.com www.facebook.com/fiitjeeindia123 www.twitter.com/fiitjee www.youtube.com/fiitjeeltd

The Premier Institute for JEE Main, JEE Advanced, Boards, various Olympiads & NTSE

FIITJEE eSchool — bringing offline expertise to online

Live Online Classroom Programs for Class VI to XII Pass Students

The next best learning medium after FIITJEE Offline Classroom Programs right at your doorstep. Join from anywhere & experience FIITJEE's legendary pedagogy.

For address & location details of FIITJEE eSchool Information & Counselling Centres, visit **www.fiitjee-eschool.com/contactus.html**
e-Mail : query@fiitjee-eschool.com | To receive a call back, give a missed call on **9289550392** |
For Program Enquiry, call on 8400928400 | **www.fiitjee-eschool.com**

J BG-BGE

RN Shetty Trust®

RNS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road, Channasandra, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru – 560 098

ESTD.: 2001 An Institute with a Difference

Dream Destination for Engineering Aspirants

A+ NAAC | NBA ACCREDITED (CSE,ISE,ECE,EEE,EIE) | 191 VTU RANKS | 1173 ★ ON GOING JOB OFFERS | 56 LPA HIGHEST CTC | 764 INTERNSHIP OFFERS | 1.5 LPM INTERNSHIP STIPEND | 22 YEARS ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE | E118 CET CODE | E104 COMEDK CODE

UG / PG Programs Offered

- B.E. in Computer Science & Engineering
- B.E. in Information Science & Engineering
- B.E. in CSE (Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning)
- B.E. in CSE (Data Science)
- B.E. in Artificial Intelligence & Data Science
- B.E. in CSE (Cyber Security)
- B.E. in Electronics & Communication Engineering
- B.E. in Electrical & Electronics Engineering
- B.E. in Mechanical Engineering
- B.E. in Civil Engineering
- Master of Business Administration - MBA
- Master of Computer Applications - MCA

Dr. R N Shetty
Founder

AICTE | ARIIA | INSTITUTION'S INNOVATION COUNCIL | www.rnsit.ac.in

Rated by public as one of the Best Engineering Institutions in Bengaluru, under VTU

MOU WITH INDUSTRIES

* EDI-Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India
* Fiabilite Pvt.Ltd / VI Solutions / Industrial Technologies
* CISCO Oracle Certification initiative (under MHRD)
* Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance
* Bosch-Rexroth India Ltd / CADD / Rareminds
* IBM Certification / Microsoft Certification
* Vision Digital India Ltd
* Aricent Academic Initiative
* Tessolve Semiconductor
* Co-cubes, AMCAT, e-litmus
* Infosys Campus Connect
* Industrial Technologies
* IBM Academic Initiative
* KPIT Technologies
* Bullwork Mobility
* ATS Infotech
* VI Solutions
* Pegasus

ADMISSIONS OPEN FOR 2023-24

For Admission Contact

080 - 2441 0020
080 - 2441 0021
admissions@rnsit.ac.in

SCAN to ENROLL

OUR MAJOR RECRUITERS

accenture, Kaar, Adecco, Adobe, amazon, AMPERE, Aryaka, BETSOL, bartleby, LG Soft India, Cerner, pwc Codeyoung, cimpress, HEALTHEDGE, HealthPlix, INSZOOM, IntelliPaat, JUSPAY, Cognizant, DeltaX, dyson, EMPOWER, Futurense, Goldman Sachs, glassbeam, brigosha technologies, Kaar, jaro education, mthree, Kickdrum, KodNest, KPMG, LANDMARK GROUP, Legato, meredith, FEDERAL MOGUL GOETZE INDIA, Hashedin, LiDO, nilenso, Mindtree, MediaKind, NOKIA, wego, Nouveau Labs, NTT DATA, HEXAWARE, KINARA POWER PRODUCTS HAMARA, PayPal, pinclick, ribbon, tcs, TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES, SAKHA GLOBAL Technabling human endeavors, SiFive, Hitachi Energy, TEXTRON, TEXAS INSTRUMENTS, tenovia, SOCIETE GENERALE, SURYA, virtusa, ICICI Securities, TENNECO, TECHNOVERT, ThoughtClan, TheMathCompany, WinWire Technologies, Kickdrum, Legato, L&T Infotech, NVIDIA, vmware, Abhimaani Group, agilelab, Balaji Industries, BLUENEEM, BOSCH, Broadridge, Mphasis The Next Applied, zoho, Schneider Electric, Capgemini, CHAITRA VENTURES, Cognizant, Collins Aerospace, Continental Automotive Systems, coreyo, DeltaX, London Stock Exchange, ITC INFOTECH, IDEA INFINITY, OCWEN, PANACEA Engineering Medicine, Sanrad MEDICAL SYSTEMS We make relationship for life, EMMAZ, EpitomeCircuits preaching VLSI, RNS INFRASTRUCTURE, SASMOS, PURAVANKARA, SAP, Sedin, ESSILOR SEEING THE WORLD BETTER, WÜRTH ELEKTRONIK, YG, WEIR, ORACLE, MICROLAND, SEG AUTOMOTIVE, SASKEN, SELCO, TWEAVERS HR Consultancy Pvt. Ltd., tcs TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES, utthunga Engineering Transformation, wolken, wipro, Infosys, ZOYOV technologies, OLA ELECTRIC

PLACEMENT PARADISE

For more details

Dr. M K Venkatesha	Mr. Muralikrishna K Mysore	Dr. Ramesh Babu H S	Mr. Raghavendra R
Director	Chief Technology Officer	Principal	Accounts Manager
+91 98808 67337	+91 98454 49936	+91 94489 53800	+91 90359 60355
director@rnsit.ac.in	cto@rnsit.ac.in	principal@rnsit.ac.in	accounts@rnsit.ac.in

RNS SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

RNS School of Architecture - B. Arch. CET CODE : E268 COMEDK CODE : E190

Contact Ar. Usha Pattabhi Principal, RNSSA +91 93433 69406 principal.rnssa@rnsit.ac.in

How genome sequences tracked down an ancient disease

Genome-sequencing technologies allow scientists to trace the trail of infectious diseases that ailed people in prehistoric times. The ambit of such technologies is also expanding to include studies of animal and plant diseases, signalling their relevance for the 'One Health' conception of nature.

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria

EXPLAINER

Peter Brueghel's 'The Triumph Of Death' (c 1562) depicts the social upheaval following the 'Black Death'. PUBLIC DOMAIN

The 'Black Death', or the Great Plague, of the 14th century was one of the deadliest epidemics in human history. It's a clear example of the profound influence infectious disease outbreaks can have on society, economy and culture. It was also probably one of the most impactful epidemics, considering it left an indelible mark on humankind and shaped the collective memory of many subsequent generations. The 'Black Death' is believed to have killed more than 25 million people in Europe and possibly up to 40-50% of the population in some of the continent's major cities.

What is the 'Black Death'?

The 'Black Death' was caused by a bacterium called *Yersinia pestis*, which infects mammals. This bacterium's discovery has been attributed separately to Alexandre Yersin, a Swiss-French physician, and Kitasato Shibasaburō, a Japanese physician and microbiologist during the plague outbreak in Hong Kong in 1894. Humans typically get infected through fleas or through close handling/contact with an infected human or animal.One possible reason for the humongous proportions of the 'Black Death' outbreak is the human-to-human transmission of the bacteria. While the plague remains a serious disease today, it's also quite treatable. After the discovery of antibiotics, in fact, its modern mortality is quite small.

India has experienced plague epidemics of varying intensities from as early as 1896 in Bombay to outbreaks in Karnataka (1966) and Surat (1994), and to a more recent isolated outbreak (2004) in a village in Uttarakhand. India also figures prominently in the history of the plague. The plague vaccine was developed by Waldemar Haffkine in 1897 during the outbreaks in Bombay; the country also initiated mass vaccination programmes, with at least 20 million doses estimated to have been administered to date.

Studying the history of a disease?

While the 'Black Death' is probably not the earliest recorded epidemic, there are old records of its occurrence. Historical archives suggest the Plague of Justinian in the sixth century A.D. was possibly the first to be documented. Plague epidemics continue to occur around the world and are today endemic in some regions.

The evidence also suggests that plague outbreaks were possibly common in Asia and Europe as early as the Late Neolithic-Early Bronze Age (LBNA), as implied by genetic material isolated from a Swedish tomb dated to 3000 B.C.

The LBNA period is estimated to have lasted 5,000-2,500 years before present. This era was also characterised by human contact, exchange across Europe, and a consequent social, economic, and cultural transformation of human society.

The advent of genome-sequencing technologies has allowed scientists to trace the trail of infectious diseases that ailed people in prehistoric times. This is possible in particular due to deep-sequencing of genetic material isolated from well-preserved human remains, with the help of advanced computational analysis. Deep-sequencing involves sequencing the genomic material multiple times to retrieve even small amounts of DNA, since the material is likely to degrade over time.

What has deep-sequencing revealed?

Scientists have also traced the prehistoric trail of many major human pathogens in recent years, providing an unparalleled view of the evolution and adaptation of human pathogens.

Consider, for example, a paper published in *iScience* on May 2. Researchers screened more than 500 tooth and bone samples for genetic material corresponding to *Yersinia pestis*. They identified five human individuals from whom the genetic material could be isolated, and constructed the genome of the pathogen with deep-sequencing.

They found that the reconstructed genomes lacked the gene to create a molecule called *yapC*, short for 'yersinia autotransporter C', associated with the bacterium's ability to bind to mammalian cells and form biofilms - and thus important for causing infections. They also did not find the gene for *ymt*, short for 'yersinia murine toxin', which is required for the bacterium's transmission through fleas. However, they also found the presence of a functional urease D gene, which could make them toxic to fleas.

> Scientists have also traced the prehistoric trail of many major human pathogens in recent years.

In another recent paper, published in *Nature Communications* on May 30, researchers at the Francis Crick Institute, London, reported sequencing genetic material from two distant burial sites in the U.K. They studied 34 human remains in the Charterhouse Warren in Somerset and a ring cairn monument in Levens Park, Cumbria. The remains were estimated to be around 4,000 years old, overlapping with the LBNA period. They identified the genetic material for *Yersinia* in three individuals, confirming the presence of epidemics in Britain in the LBNA, widening the geographical spread of infections well beyond Eurasia.

What does this tell us about our past?

The genome sequences from the latter also lacked the *yapC* and *ymt* genes, reinforcing the previous findings that the plague in that period was possibly not transmitted through fleas.

Indeed, the earliest isolates of *Yersinia pestis* with the *ymt* gene, and thus adapted for flea transmission, were possibly from samples from Russia and Spain estimated to be around 3,800 years and 3,300 years old, respectively. The LBNA lineage of *Yersinia* is therefore believed to have been brought to Europe by the migration of humans from the Eurasian grasslands.The broad geographical spread over a long timespan also suggests that the plague was possibly quite transmissible in the past, though we know very little of its severity.

As genome-sequencing has become more democratised, its applications are increasingly enabling fast, efficient diagnosis of outbreaks, in routine clinical settings as well, quickly replacing the traditional approaches in microbiology. Genome sequences provide enormous advantages over conventional approaches because it can contribute to identification and molecular characterisation, and open windows into virulence, antimicrobial and antibody resistance, and clues into the evolution, adaptation, and introduction of species in new settings.

The ambit of such technologies is also expanding to include studies of animal and plant diseases, along with human diseases, contributing to the unified understanding of our well-being called 'One Health'.

(Sridhar Sivasubbu and Vinod Scaria are scientists at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB) . All opinions expressed are personal. This article is part of a fortnightly column exploring contemporary concepts and issues in genetics.)

THE GIST

The earliest isolates of *Yersinia pestis* with the *ymt* gene, and thus adapted for flea transmission, were possibly from samples from Russia and Spain estimated to be around 3,800 years and 3,300 years old, respectively. The LBNA lineage of *Yersinia* is therefore believed to have been brought to Europe by the migration of humans from the Eurasian grasslands.

While the 'Black Death' is probably not the earliest recorded epidemic, there are old records of its occurrence. Historical archives suggest the Plague of Justinian in the sixth century A.D. was possibly the first to be documented. Plague epidemics continue to occur around the world and are today endemic in some regions.

In another recent paper, published in *Nature Communications* on May 30, researchers at the Francis Crick Institute, London, reported sequencing genetic material from two distant burial sites in the U.K. They studied 34 human remains in the Charterhouse Warren in Somerset and a ring cairn monument in Levens Park, Cumbria. The remains were estimated to be around 4,000 years old, overlapping with the LBNA period.

BIG SHOT

Sargassum algae along a beach in Cancun, Mexico. This seaweed, whose stench is a buzzkill in tourism season, has acquired a new edge: researchers have found they contain a high concentration of the dangerous *Vibrio* bacteria, which can stick to the plastic entangled in the sargassum. AFP/DANIEL SLIM

WHAT IS IT?

Evapotranspiration: first part of a cycle moving water from terrestrial surfaces to the air

The earth is a dynamic place, where the movement of things – some fast, some slow, some whimsical, some railroaded by tremendous forces – plays an important role in planetary processes, including those required to sustain life. Tectonic plates move to relieve and accumulate stress, ocean currents redistribute nutrients, volcanoes pump minerals up, trees fix minerals into the soil.

Evapotranspiration is one kind of movement that is part of a larger planet-wide rhythm called the water cycle. The term is an amalgam of evaporation – which is how the soil loses water – and transpiration – which is how plants do it. In particular, transpiration accommodates both the movement of water up through the plant and its loss into the air from parts exposed to the atmosphere.

Evapotranspiration is an amalgam of these terms conceptually, and it is the first part of the water cycle, when water from terrestrial surfaces moves into the atmosphere. A number of factors affect the rate of evapotranspiration, including solar radiation, the length of day, the amount of soil moisture, the ambient temperature, the winds, and the amount of water vapour that the air already holds.

The word is at least 86 years old, and was first published in hyphenated form.

Evapotranspiration over Czech forests near Liberec. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The American climatologist Charles Warren Thornthwaite later defined it in 1944. An important way in which it remains relevant to this day is for farmers, who use it to estimate how much water their crops need to be fed.

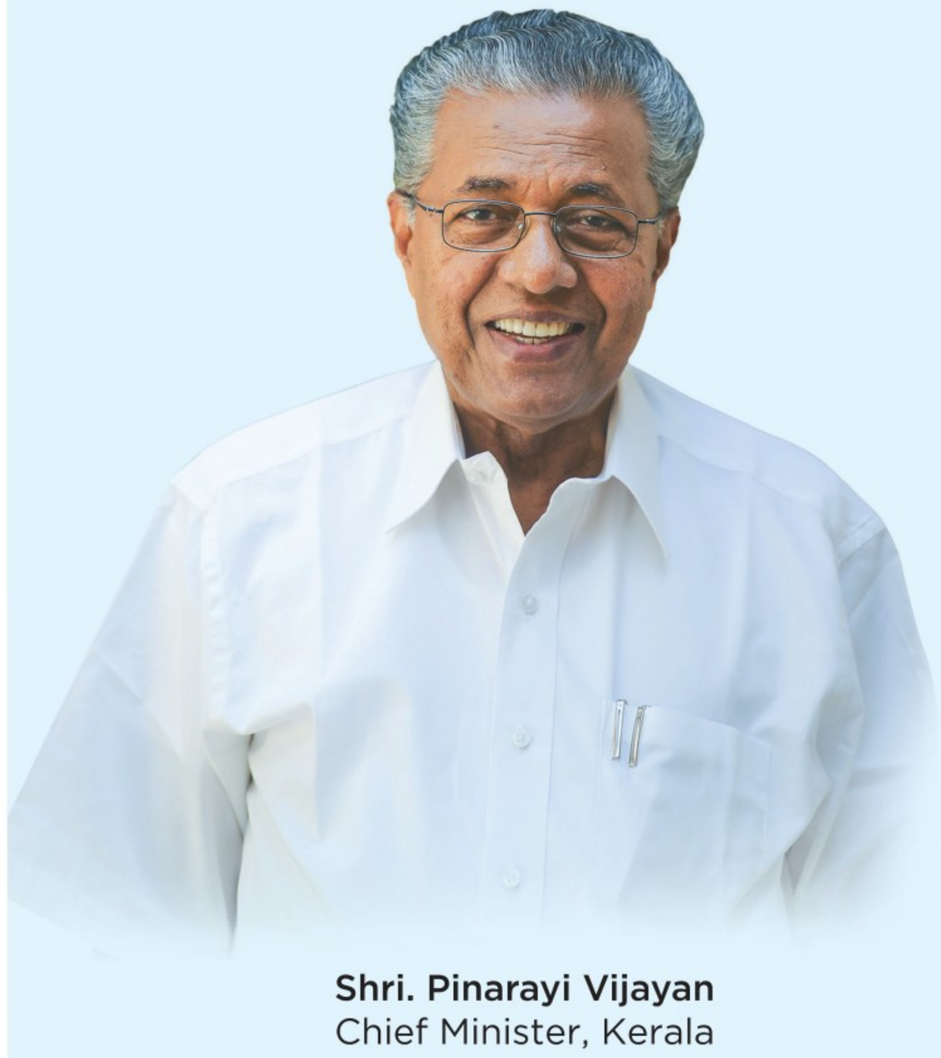
— ***Arkatapa Basu***

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

DEDICATING KFON

KERALA FIBRE OPTIC NETWORK

KERALA'S OWN INTERNET, TO THE PEOPLE.



Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan
Chief Minister, Kerala

Monday, June 5, 2023, 4.00 PM
LA Complex, Thiruvananthapuram

Government of Kerala's flagship project, the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON), is designed to bridge the digital divide, make e-Governance universal and ensure internet access to every Government Institution and household across the State.

Kerala is also the only state in India to have declared access to internet as a basic right. KFON has now come to fruition, providing internet connectivity to 30,000 plus Government Institutions and 14,000 economically weaker households, with more to follow.

This is one of the many Real Kerala Stories...

HIGHLIGHTS

- Free high-speed connectivity to 20 lakh economically backward households.
- Improving e-Governance efficiency with seamless linking of Government Institutions through KFON.
- Data speeds ranging from 10 Mbps to 10 Gbps.
- Network Operating Centre, 375 PoPs, 30,000 Kms of fibre optic cables across Kerala.

OFFERINGS

• Connectivity to Government Institutions • Leasing Dark Fibre • Internet Leased Line (ILL) • Fibre to the Home (FTTH) • Wi-Fi Hotspots • Co-Location of Assets in the NOC & Points of Presence (POPs) • Others (IPTV, OTT, Cloud Hosting etc.)

Launching commercial connections soon !!!

KFON
INTERNET - A BASIC RIGHT

DEFINING THE FUTURE
EMPOWERING THE FUTURE
കേരളത്തിന്റെ ഊർജ്ജം
Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd
Information & Public Relations Department Government of Kerala

This Bengaluru-based start-up generates water from thin air

The founders of Uravu Labs describe their work on renewable water technology

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

India faces acute water shortage, and the problem is having a major impact on people's lives, agriculture, and the environment. FILE PHOTO

In 2016, Swapnil Shrivastav and Venkatesh R.Y., the founders of the Bengaluru-based Uravu Labs, a start-up working on renewable water technology, experienced firsthand the impact of water shortage.

They were both students at the National Institute of Technology, Calicut, back then, says Shrivastav, recalling the dry spell the city of Kozhikode went through that year. When the river near the institute, its primary source of water, started drying up, NIT turned to water tankers to supply their staff and students with water.

"But with so many students in the hostel, you cannot keep calling water tankers," says Shrivastav, adding that water had to be rationed to one to two buckets per person per day back then. "That was a trigger. It got me thinking about water, in general."

They began researching technology that could create water from air and continued their experiments even after they graduated, and took up a job. These initial prototypes used refrigerants to help condense atmospheric water, a technology similar to that employed in air conditioners.

However, this was neither very efficient nor very sustainable, pointed out Shrivastav. "We thought we would continue doing this and see where it goes," he said, adding that they did this part-time for a while, convincing their landlord to let them experiment in the area surrounding their rented accommodation in Bengaluru.

Changed technology

By 2018, they had changed their technology, using desiccants, substances that are capable of absorbing water from the air, instead of refrigerants. "We wanted to look at something not dependent on electricity," he says, adding that they began using silica gel to trap moisture in the air. This moisture, in turn, gets desorbed using heat generated from a renewable energy source, and the water vapour released is condensed and then collected.

Around the same time, Tata Group-backed Water Abundance XPRIZE, a global contest offering a considerable grant to teams that could successfully create low-cost, energy-efficient technologies that could help alleviate the looming global water crisis. When they won the XPrize Grant, the duo quit their day jobs and decided to do this full-time, going on to add two members to the team-- Govinda Balaji and Pradeep Garg. In October 2019, the four came together and found Uravu Labs, the name was inspired by the Malayalam word for "spring of water".

(Left to right) Govinda Balaji, Swapnil Shrivastav, Pradeep Garg and Venkatesh R.Y.

Upping their game

Today, Uravu Labs has the capacity to produce nearly 3,000 litres of water per day; they hope to scale up further and produce at least 10,000 litres of water out of the air by the end of the year. "The more you scale, the more the cost per litre of water goes down," says Shrivastav.

From a levelized cost perspective, producing around 20 litres of water comes to rupees six to rupees seven per litre. "As we scale up, as we reach 200-500 litres per day, this becomes around rupees four to rupees five per litre," he says. "And when we reach 2,000 to 10,000 per day scale, it becomes rupees two to rupees three per litre"

The desire to scale was the reason they chose to change the desiccant used in the technology, switching from the solid silica gel to a proprietary salt solution in 2021. "Liquid is much easier to scale," he says, adding they were only generating five litres of water per day.

In 2021, the start-up raised its first round of funding, an undisclosed amount led by Speciale Invest, along with angel investors like Peter Yolles, Soren Schroder, Shigeru Sumimoto, and Tomoki Kaneko. "This gave us a good amount of resources to build the product and improve technology," he says.

Recently, in March 2023, the start-up raised another round of funding, around $2.3 million. This round of funding, led by Anicut Capital and co-led by Rocketship.vc and Speciale Invest, funds, is being used to scale the business further. "We have filed three patents and have another few in the works," he says.

They have also started to sell the water generated by this technology to the beverage and hospitality industry.

"The beverage industry uses 1,500 billion litres of water annually, less than agriculture, but more than what goes into personal use," he said.

Much of this comes from rapidly depleting ground-water sources, the purification of which leads to additional water loss. "With every litre of water, we produce, we can save two to three litres of groundwater, which can be diverted to other things," he said.

Telescopes that are on the ground have a major disadvantage. The light from the Sun passes through the Earth's atmosphere, which is not a homogenous medium. FILE PHOTO

IIA scientists propose new metric which can help quantify image quality of the Sun

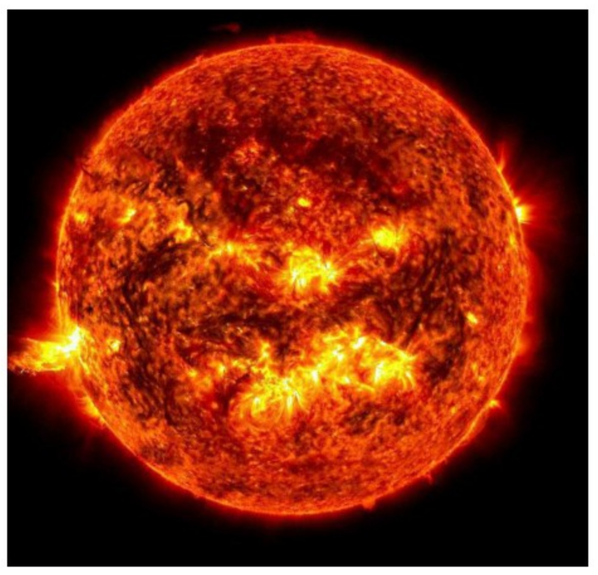
Hemanth C.S.
BENGALURU

Scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have proposed a new metric, which can help quantify image quality of the Sun taken from ground-based telescopes.

According to the Ministry of Science and Technology, dynamic events like flares, prominences, and coronal mass ejections taking place on the surface of the Sun have made the solar body the focus of interest of astronomers.

"Being the closest star, it can be studied in great detail, and properties of other stars may be extrapolated by the understanding of the Sun. To resolve even the smallest features in greater detail, large telescopes are built," said the Ministry of Science and Technology.

However there is a major disadvantage when the telescopes are on the ground. "The light from the Sun passes through the Earth's atmosphere, which is not a homogenous medium. There are random temperature fluctuations that lead to refractive index fluctuations. This causes the light to bend randomly and can be observed as the variation of intensity (scintillation/twinkling) and position of the image on the detector," the Ministry said.



Dynamic events like flares, prominences, and coronal mass ejections taking place on the surface of the Sun have made the solar body the focus of astronomers' interest.

It further added that the quality of the images obtained from ground-based telescopes cannot be quantified with the Strehl ratio or other metrics used directly for nighttime astronomical telescopes.

To overcome this, scientists from IIA have proposed to use a novel metric called the root mean square (rms) granulation contrast to quantify the image quality of ground-based solar telescopes.

Using theories that can be used to explain the turbulence introduced by the atmosphere, scientists Saraswathi Kalyani Subramanian and Sridharan Rengaswamy performed simulations of how an image would look when there is no atmospheric turbulence (ideal case) and compared to the image when there is an atmosphere (perturbed image) and when AO correction is done.

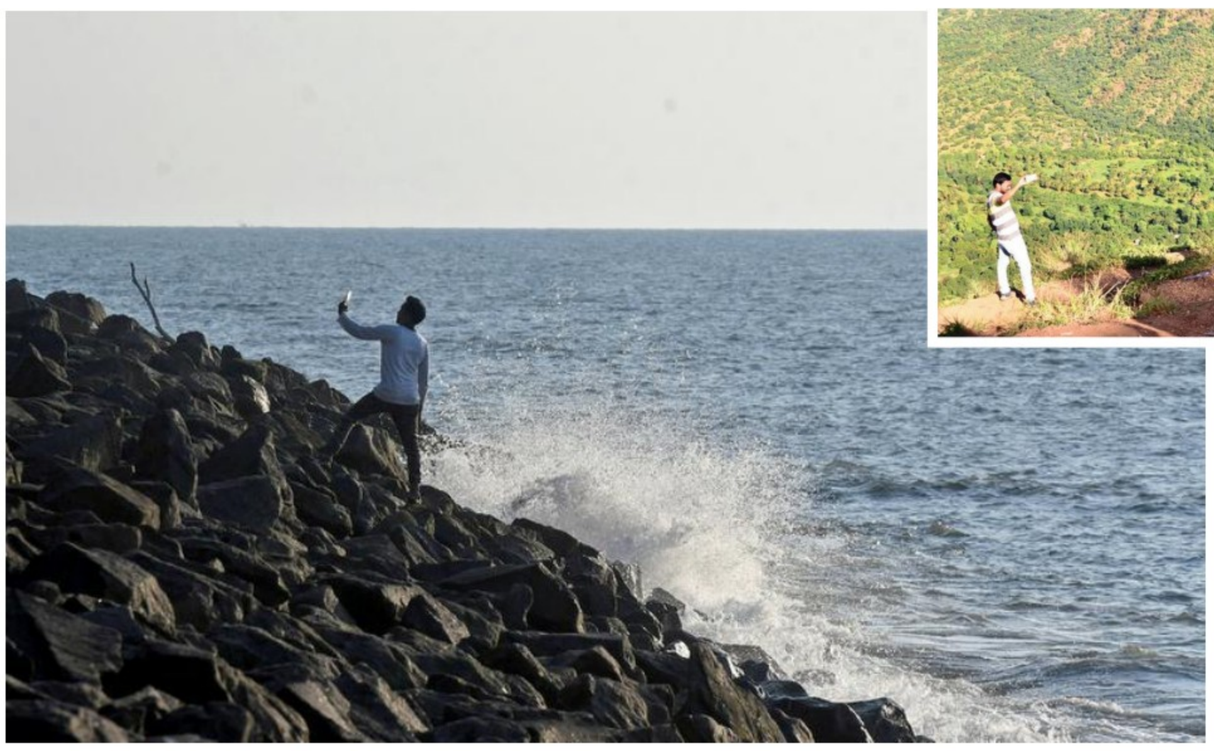
"Comparing the results of the idealistic simulations to practical systems, they computed an efficiency factor deriving an efficiency of about 40 to 55% for Strehl ratio and about 50% as a lower bound for contrast.

"Their results will be useful in characterising the performance of solar telescope and associated AO system," the Ministry said.

Two million litres lost, but phew! the phone was found

A selfie is often the picture of a hysterical person at a historical site

Suresh Menon



A man taking selfie in a dangerous position on rocks next to incoming tide at Fort Kochi beach. FILE PHOTO

Tourists taking selfie at Dum Dum Rock on Kodaikanal Hill, Tamil Nadu. FILE PHOTO

The selfie satisfies the urge to make the statement, "I was there" and confirming that with, "if you don't believe me, here's a picture I took myself of myself". It is a strong urge, and stronger now for having been dormant for generations while we waited for some clever person to invent the phone-camera. And for another clever person to invent the selfie-smile.

This smile is one that is reserved for the selfie; many practise it for days and weeks before they get it right. For it has to go with the selfie-hair and selfie-look and a selfie-casualness that looks like it was natural and just happened. Most people have to work hard on appearing spontaneous.

A selfie is often the picture of a hysterical person at a historical site. "See, that's me in the foreground with my lovely dimples (or French beard or whatever), and way behind is the Taj Mahal which has no dimples," is the underlying message.

The selfie has claimed a few lives too. People have been run over by trains, hit by buses, fallen into rivers and drowned, fallen off cliffs and been charged by wild animals in pursuit of the perfect, defined as one that causes universal envy.

I haven't been in any of these situations - in any case, if I want a selfie with a charging bull, I would have to ask the bull to click the picture - so I probably don't have the right to comment on people who have. Like the government official in Chhattisgarh. He was taking a selfie with a water reservoir holding two million litres of water when the phone slipped from his hands and fell in.

Of the least sexy edifices to share a selfie with, a reservoir is probably high on the list. Universal envy? Doubtful. But then that's just me.

I have no idea what I would have done had my phone fallen into a reservoir holding two million litres of water. Or even one million, for that matter. Perhaps I would have shrugged my shoulders and walked off with a vague note to myself about not taking selfies in future. Or perhaps I might have offered a reward to anyone who would dive in and retrieve the phone for its sentimental or economic value.

The government official initially went for the second choice, and when that didn't work, he ordered the reservoir to be drained - all two million litres of it. It took three days to empty the reservoir of the water that would have irrigated some 1500 acres of land during the current scorching summer.

Even at this stage I am tempted to comment, but I won't because I haven't been in his situation ever. Remember the opening lines of *The Great Gatsby?* "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

The water may have been lost forever, but this story has a happy ending: the phone was retrieved.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 4, 1973

Survey on Bangalore

BANGALORE, June 3: Mayor A.R. Ananthakrishna inaugurated here to-day the "Bangalore City survey project" undertaken by the Institute for Social and Economic Change. The Mayor stressed the need for constituting a committee to co-ordinate the functioning of the City Corporation, City Improvement Trust Board, the Town Planning Authority and connected bodies. He said that these bodies were to-day working at cross purposes, often violating each other's rules and regulations.

Congress wrests Hubli Mayorship

HUBLI, June 3: The Congress to-day wrested the Mayorship of the Hubli Dharwad Municipal Corporation when its nominee, Mr. A.M. Bangalori, defeated his Jan Sangh rival, Mr. T.A. Chavan, in a straight fight. The City Advocate, Mr. Bangalori, who will be the youngest Mayor (33), polled 24 votes as against 20 secured by the Jan Sangh nominee. He will hold office for one year.

Bandh in Bangalore

BANGALORE, June 3: Representatives of trade unions at a meeting here to-day under the auspices of the Coordination Committee of the Central Public Sector Industries Employees' Union formed a "Trade Unions - Anti Price Rise Committee" to bring pressure on the Government to bring down prices. A statement issued by Mr. H. Mahadevan, Convenor of the Committee, said the Committee had been formed to carry out the programme of action against price rise.

(There was no issue of the newspaper on June 5, 1973)

Electricity bills of Bescom consumers for June to be dearer by ₹2.89 per unit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the back of the State government's announcement, about the implementation of the Gruha Jyothi scheme from July, comes a shock for consumers of Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom): the tariff for June will be up by ₹2.89 per unit, owing to fuel and power purchase cost adjustment (FPPCA), as well as arrears from April.

While the FPPCA for this January, which was supposed to reflect in the March bill, could not be implemented owing to billing issues and scarcity of time for implementation, the FPPCA of ₹1.49 per unit will be levied in June.

A tariff order, which was passed on May 12, stated that the approved 70 paise per unit hike had to be claimed in June. Along with this, arrears of 70 paise for April will also be added to the bill for June. Hence, there will be a tariff increase of ₹2.89 per unit this month.

> Owing to many technical reasons, the FPPCA could not be recovered in March. It cannot be deferred anymore now as the rules do not allow. Hence it will be collected
>
> **RAVIKUMAR P.,**
> Chairman, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission

"Owing to many technical reasons, the FPPCA could not be recovered in March and the rules had provided the power to do the same. It cannot be deferred anymore now as the rules do not allow. Hence it will be collected," said Ravikumar P., chairman, Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC).

Subsequently, the KERC has ordered the Escoms to recover the FPPCA for the third quarter of the financial year 2022-23 from July to December, 2023, as opposed to the billing quarter of April to June, 2023, when it was supposed to be collected, upon the request of Escoms.

Accordingly, Bescom will recover 51 paise per unit between July and September and 50 paise per unit between October and December.

With the government announcing that the power bills of those who consume less than 200 units would be taken care of from its side, questions were raised about how the FPPCA would be recovered.

Mr. Ravikumar said: "As the government has announced that it will cover their bills, then it is likely that all payments under the bill would be made by its side. However, we cannot say anything for sure until the guidelines are issued".

Odisha train accident: 32 from Karnataka who were stranded in West Bengal return safely

They were stuck in Howrah after trains were cancelled owing to the accident; flight tickets were also booked for 17 more people who were stranded after taking part in a folk festival at Puri in Odisha

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As many as 32 people from Karnataka, part of volleyball teams, who were stranded after the train accident in Balasore, managed to return on Sunday, with the State government team deployed at Odisha, to oversee the safety of people from the State, facilitating their safe return to Bengaluru.

Tickets were also booked for about 17 more people who participated in a folk festival and they were scheduled to board a flight on Sunday night.

The volleyball teams took part in the 45th national volleyball championships at Kolkata in West Bengal and was stranded at Howrah station, owing to the cancellation of trains following the accident.

Food being supplied to people stranded at Baiyappanahalli station.

They then contacted the Karnataka team in Odisha, headed by Labour Minister Santosh S. Lad, after which flight tickets were booked.

The volleyball teams boarded a flight from Kolkata airport at around 4.15 a.m. on Sunday and landed in Bengaluru at 6.50 a.m.

Mr. Lad, talking to *The Hindu*, said another team of 17 persons who participated in the folk fair at Puri in Odisha were also stranded, and contacted him seeking travel arrangements. "We have booked tickets on three flights and they will be reaching on Sunday night," Mr. Lad informed.

Mr. Lad further said they have been visiting hospitals to check for admissions of injured Kannadigas and are scanning all ledgers. "Fortunately, so far, we have not found any casualties and reports about some deaths in some sections of the media are far from the truth," he ascertained.

About 110 people were travelling in reserved coaches in the SMVT Bengaluru -Howrah train, but the Railways has not shared the details of those in the general coaches. All efforts are being made to identify those travellers.

Meanwhile, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) provided food, shelter, mobile toilet facilities to nearly 1,500 passengers who were struck at Baiyappanahalli railway terminal till Sunday afternoon.

P.N. Ravindra, Special Commissioner (Projects), BBMP, said the civic body served food to stranded passengers on Saturday night and Sunday morning and afternoon. "We have now stopped as passengers have started to move out. The movement of trains resumed on Sunday afternoon," he said.

Post COVID-19, use of plastic bags sees marginal increase in tech city

#BEATPLASTICPOLLUTION

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The COVID-19 pandemic dealt a blow to every sphere of life, including the implementation of the ban on the use of single-use plastic bags, which has marginally increased in Bengaluru.

According to data from 39 dry waste collection centres (DWCC) facilitated by Hasiru Dala, a not-for-profit organisation, each centre's plastic collection stood at 2,500 kg per month before the ban was implemented. The volume of collection came down drastically to 40-50 kg per month after the government announced a ban on the use of all plastic below the thickness of 40 microns in 2015.

In 2016, the government issued a notification banning the use of all plastic and thermocol regardless of thickness. While the numbers did not come down suddenly, it had started to dip steadily over the years since 2015.

Following the pandemic, the use has slightly increased. The centres are currently receiving 100-150 kg of single-use plastic bags every month. Small retail shops and street vendors are rampantly using the same.

Nalini Shekhar of Hasiru Dala pointed out that a fear of the spread of COVID-19 brought plastic back to the market. This practice continued even after the pandemic subsided.

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) commenced vigorous implementation of the ban after the Union government notified the ban on July 1, 2022.

The civic body claims that while surveillance continues to be steadfast, cracking down on manufacturing units still remains a challenge.

Small retail shops and street vendors continue to use plastic products. FILE PHOTO

According to data shared by the BBMP, between 2019 and April, 2023, a total of ₹2.36 crore was levied in fines in over 50,000 cases.

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) has seized approximately 70 tonnes of plastic. It has also managed to seize four manufacturing units.

A BSWML official told *The Hindu* that closure of unauthorised manufacturing units located outside the BBMP's jurisdiction and outside the State is a challenge.

The plastic items arrive in trucks from Tamil Nadu and Gujarat. The BBMP has seized many trucks too. But the transportation is still continuing, owing to support from political figures across party lines, they alleged.

Plastic is collected in two streams: one by routine daily door-to-door collection and the other by plastic seizures. In both cases, the plastic is handed over to the dry waste collection centres, which in turn is tied up with the recycling units.

Approximately 600 tonnes of plastic waste are generated daily through DWCCs and 500-550 kg of plastic are being seized per day by BBMP staffers.

This is handed over to recycling units. The BBMP is also setting up a new unit at Bidadi.

What is banned?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Single-use plastic items, which have low utility and high littering potential, have been prohibited through the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules 2021

Apart from plastic bags, the ban applies to ear buds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 micron, stirrers.

The notification also prohibits manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale and use of plastic bags having thickness less than 75 microns with effect from September 30, 2021, and having thickness less than 120 microns with effect from December 31, 2022.

Private school managements in State object to notice on addition of sections

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

As schools opened for the academic year of 2023-24, over 600 private schools were facing 'illegal' tag for adding sections in classes without seeking permission.

The government has served the notice to these schools. Private school managements have objected to this move.

They claim that according to an order of the State government on March 20, 2006, private school managements are free to open additional sections, but officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) are issuing notices to 'harass' them.

The department has prepared a list of around 620 schools that have added sections without permission. This apart, as many as 74 schools have upgraded the classes without affiliation.

A total of 95 schools, with permission to offer only State board education, were found cheating parents and children by claiming affiliation to various other boards.

A total of 294 schools are illegally offering English-medium education despite being permitted to teach in Kannada medium, and 141 schools have shifted premises without getting permission from the department concerned.

The department had granted 45 days of grace period, starting April 17, to these schools to comply with the rules and correct their mistakes.

Private school managements have opposed the MLA's move and the Associated Managements of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has written to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking his intervention.

"According to the March 20, 2006 order, private school managements are free to open additional sections. There is no provision for any prior permission from the department for opening new sections. This is our right," said Shashikumar D., general secretary of the school managements' association.

Schools have warned of protest if notices on additional sections are not withdrawn.

Hotels' association seeks permission to be open 24/7

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a letter to Home Minister G. Parameshwara, the Bruhat Bangalore Hotels' Association has once again requested the State government to grant permission to keep hotels, bakeries, and ice-cream parlours open 24/7 in the city to cater to different customers.

"For those who supply milk and newspapers, farmers and traders who come to the market to sell fruits, flowers, and vegetables, those who work in shifts, police and medical staff, and many others, there would be a need for food which can be solved by letting us stay open 24/7. It would also help create more employment opportunities," the association said.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ankitha N Reddy C/o Narasareddy R/a New Manasa Hospital,Ward No. 11, Maralubagilu, Devanahalli, Bangalore Rural, Karnataka-562110 do hereby solemnly affirm and declare that I relinquish and abandon use of my former name Narasannagaru Ankitha Narasa Reddy but my new correct, true and continue name as **Ankitha N Reddy (New Name)** only for all further future actions, proceedings, dealings and transactions, private as well as upon all all occasions whatsoever vide affidavit made sworn before Advocate and Notary A. Narayanaswamy on 03.06.2023.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, JUN. 05			
	RISE	05:53	SET 18:44
	RISE	20:13	SET 06:41
TUESDAY, JUN. 06			
	RISE	05:53	SET 18:44
	RISE	21:16	SET 07:46
WEDNESDAY, JUN. 07			
	RISE	05:53	SET 18:44
	RISE	22:15	SET 08:52

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	27
Mysuru	35	23
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be little warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
31°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm and humid. Chances of moderate rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

E-TENDER NOTICE No. 23/MYS/2023 of 31-05-2023

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.	Item of work	Approx. Value
1	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Sakleshpur:-** Re-gauging of track including renewal of worn out fastenings over curves and Greasing of rails in curves with railways grease between Sakleshpur-Subrahmanya Road station for a period of one year and track maintenance works for increasing of speed from 70/80 Kmph to 85 Kmph in SSE/PWay/Hassan - Sakleshpur and SSE/PWay/Kabakaputtur section.	**Rs. 4,06,09,217/-**
2	**Mysuru Division:-** Hassan-Mangaluru Sec: Rehabilitation of damaged piers of bridge No.597 across Netravathi River (Pier No 2,3,4,5,6 and 8)	**Rs. 1,21,20,252/-**
3	**Sub Work : I -** Mysuru Division - Construction of septic tank and soak pit arrangements as per IS 2470 part-I & part-II at 8 NGT stations (Chamarajanagar, Nanjangud, Shrirangapattana, Birur, Harihar, Sagara Jambagaru, Subrahmanya Road, Hassan) (Excluding Chamarajanagar, Nanjangud, Shrirangapattana, Harihar, Subrahmanya Road station) **Sub Work :II -** Construction of Drainage at Arsikere Colony.	**Rs. 2,37,71,603/-**
4	**Mysuru Division** Providing side pathway for Br. No. 43 RUB in Chikjajur-Rayadurg section, Br. No.104A (OWG), BR. No. 48-B, Br. No.2 in Birur -Talguppa section Br. No.192D UP, Br. No. 222 RUB UP, Br. No. 86 UP, Br. No. 85 UP, Br. No. 71 UP, Br. No. 50 UP, Br. No. 35 UP, Br. No. 34 UP, Br. No. 23 UP, Br. No. 21 UP, Br. No. 131 UP, Br. No.18A RUB UP in Sampige Road-Harihar UP line section (16 bridges)	**Rs.1,66,15,085/-**
5	**Hassan-Mangaluru section:-** Strengthening of cracked top flange and replacement of corroded rivets of under slung girders in Sakaleshpur-Yedakumari section (Ghat section) in SSE/Br/Sakaleshpur jurisdiction (Br. No.142, 208, 210, 211, 217, 243, 251, 252, 293, 298 & 326) - 11 bridges.	**Rs. 1,34,11,414/-**
6	Providing side pathway for Br. No. 90 UP, Br. No.50 UP, Br. No. 51 UP, Br. No. 44 UP, Br. No. 69 UP in Harihar-Karajgi UP line section (5 Bridges)	**Rs. 2,01,77,889/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 22-06-2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ordination Mysuru
PUB/142/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

City companies join anti-plastic movement

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Oceans are the biggest and deepest trash bins on Earth. In India, a major chunk of plastic deposits in the ocean comes from abandoned fishing nets. Once disposed of in the water, these become ghost nets, almost invisible in the dark underwater. Sea creatures get trapped in these nets and die. Ghost nets also pose critical dangers to divers.

Now, several enterprises and NGOs are trying to make a conscious intervention in this area.

For instance, HCL Harit, the green initiative of HCL Foundation, the CSR arm of tech firm HCL Tech, recently collaborated with the Navy and The Habitats Trust towards strengthening efforts for combating plastic waste in oceans. Nidhi Pundhir, vice-president, Global CSR, HCL Tech, said, "We have already retrieved some 20,300 kg of ghost nets through various projects. We are going to commence similar projects across coasts in Karnataka and Odisha."

While intervention through CSR is one part, many companies are running very specific initiatives to minimise or stop the use of plastic in their offices.

"We have successfully done away with single-use plastics 100% and engaged with authorised third-party vendors for the recycling of waste from packaging, etc," said Paneesh Rao, Global Head of Sustainability, LTIMindtree, a city-based IT firm.

Cisco's campus in Bengaluru, the largest outside its global headquarters in San Jose, is a zero-waste discharge site now, after the digital communication and technology major eliminated the use of plastic/paper cups as part of its green initiatives.

These citizens have embraced a zero-waste lifestyle

Swathi Nair
BENGALURU

The city is home to individuals who are leading the way in reducing waste and embracing sustainable living. Meet Saha Mansoor, Mridula Joshi, and Ram Arora, who have made it their mission to create a positive impact on the environment.

Ms. Mansoor, a nature enthusiast from a young age, embarked on a zero-waste lifestyle to align with her environmental values.

Reflecting on her journey, she shares, "I had to address my own trash problem first. My solution - live a lifestyle that best reflects the values I cared about".

She also takes pride in making her own personal care products, stating, "I started looking at what are the products from my personal care routine that I could make on my own".

Ms. Joshi, a 28-year-old Bengalurean, actively practices waste reduction in her daily life.

Saha Mansoor embarked on a zero-waste lifestyle to align with her environmental values.

Ram Arora, a tech professional has also embraced initiatives to reduce waste.

"I started actively trying to lead a zero-waste lifestyle since my 23rd birthday, when I made the resolution after a year of watching and learning about the idea and concept," she says.

Ms. Joshi has also embraced reusable menstrual products and carries reusables in public to avoid disposables. She believes in the power of minimalism, stating, "Buying less in general goes a long way in reducing your impact and saving money".

Mr. Arora, a tech professional in Bengaluru, has also embraced initiatives to reduce waste. He is dedicated to composting his wet waste and ensuring that his dry waste is sent to registered recyclers.

According to Mr. Arora, living a zero-waste lifestyle in Bengaluru is relatively easy owing to the accessibility and convenience of waste management resources available.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Meet the sustainability champions of Bengaluru

On World Environment Day, meet the eco-innovators of Bengaluru inspiring a greener future, ranging from an artist who works with waste material to a chef who minimises food wastage

Mrudula Joshi SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Waste-free vision

Mrudula Joshi runs Ulisu (which means 'to save' in Kannada), an online platform that promotes minimising waste generation. Apart from being a marketplace for sustainable products and brands, the platform also helps people transition into a zero-waste lifestyle.

Ullisu has also collaborated with another sustainability organisation, Wasted 360 Solutions, for a physical space in Indiranagar, which acts as a market for zero-waste products, a thrift store, and a waste collection centre.

Mrudula's sustainability journey started six years ago when she worked as a designer after graduating from the National Institute of Fashion Technology. Inspired by minimalism, she sought to transform her way of living.

The idea of a 'zero-waste lifestyle' appealed to her. "Within a year, the amount of waste I created was so little that it would go just once in six months."

She wants Ullisu to be the go-to place for people who seek guidance on zero-waste.

"We already counsel corporates and individuals on this. We would like to scale that up in the coming years. In India, people are still reluctant to pay for sustainable services. So, we are still figuring out how to grow."

To know more, follow Ullisu's Instagram page (ullisu.official)

Praveen Sudevan

In the bustling city of Bengaluru, where urban growth and development often take centre stage, a silent revolution is underway. A growing number of individuals have emerged as passionate advocates for sustainability, dedicating their time, energy, and resources to create positive change within their communities From eco-entrepreneurs to e-waste artists, these individuals have embraced the urgent need to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices in the city.

Through their unwavering commitment, innovative ideas, and tireless efforts, they are redefining the way we live, work, and interact with our surroundings. They address diverse aspects of sustainability such as waste management, sustainable fashion and food, and more.

Small changes Will make the city green again MURALI KUMAR K

Vishwanath Mallabadi

Making upcycled masterpieces

Cursorily glancing at a small thumbnail of Vishwanath Mallabadi's recreation of the Vincent van Gogh masterpiece, *Starry Night*, you might feel it is a modest replica of the iconic painting. A slightly closer look will immediately reveal the recreation's ingenuity. For, the painting's chromatic blue swirls of the night sky, the crescent moon, and the stars are all made up of discarded resistors! And this is just one of Vishwanath's 600-plus artworks made of e-waste.

Art has always been a part of his life since his father, the late D M Shambhu, was a painter and sculptor. He found the innards of electronic devices fascinating. These two interests led him to create art from electronic trash.

Vishwanath, however, reckons sustainability cannot merely be an individual responsibility. According to a United Nations report, more than 53 million tonnes of e-waste was generated worldwide in 2019. What if all this waste can be upcycled into art? "The government spends a lot on statues. All of this could be made from e-waste, thereby minimizing the allocation of resources towards conventional materials such as wood or plastic."

To know more, follow Vishwanath Mallabadi on Instagram (the.upcycle.store)

Praveen Sudevan

Thrift is chic

"Today fashion is going out of style. How do we keep up?" asks personal stylist Meghna Khanna, who runs The Preloved Co, a Bengaluru-based thrift store, who believes that finding your style and sticking to it is the best way.

Thrifting, she adds, is a great way to step away from the homogenous ideas of style that fast fashion often imposes. "Our collection (online or at a pop-up) is highly curated. I sift through it personally and only select the good stuff."

While Meghna, who used to run the Levitate boutique in Indiranagar, had already adopted a sustainable production method, she realised it was about new products coming into the space. "The pandemic made me realise that we had so much more than any generation before us."

Around the same time, her friend Mariam Begg, who had started Preloved Co in 2017, changed paths professionally. "I took over in 2021," says Meghna, who hopes to take Preloved to

Meghna Khanna (Left) SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

corporates and IT parks "to show them what this can be."

Thrifting, she says, is not about money but a mindset and a conversation. "It is an evolving space, and we want to take this conversation forward."

To know more, follow The Preloved Co's Instagram page (the.preloved.co)

Preeti Zachariah

Vani Murthy SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Alchemy of trash

Everything starts at home and in a small manner. That is what comes to mind when you speak to Vani Murthy.

Vani, who is a homemaker, says visiting a landfill with her friends was a turning point in her life. "The amount of waste generated in and around Bengaluru and what it was doing to the environment was scary. We started organising campaigns on social media in 2007 to make people aware of it."

"The idea was to get them to say no to landfills and segregate waste at home."

To promote waste segregation, her group launched a campaign called Two Bins, One Bag, wherein people were encouraged to keep three different bins: blue (for dry waste), green (for wet waste), and red (for biomedical waste). "In fact, it was our group, which got the court mandate for waste segregation," she says.

Her group also launched the Swacha Graha campaign, encouraging people to start composting.

"Once they start composting, they could later make their own soil and grow their own pesticide-free food on their balconies and terraces. Once you start growing your own food, it changes your lifestyle."

To know more, follow Vani Murthy on Instagram (wormrani).

Shilpa Anandraj

Gourmet grain

Elizabeth Yorke, a chef and sustainability advocate, is turning the tide on food waste with her company, Saving Grains. By harnessing the power of upcycling, she aims to breathe new life into the spent grain, a by-product of beer brewing.

During her 2016 internship with William Rubel, a renowned food historian and author of *Bread: A Global History*, Elizabeth discovered the historical collaboration between brewers and bakers. They shared common ingredients like grain, yeast, and water. Bakers provided leftover bread to brewers for fermentation, while brewers gave bakers spent grain and yeast to make bread. This connection inspired her next steps in Bengaluru.

Collaborating with Geist Brewing Co. and Biergarten, she upcycled malted grain into consumables rich in fibre and protein. From pasta, crackers, and brownies to granola and cookies, her creations not only reduce waste but also offer a nutritious alterna-

Elizabeth Yorke SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tive. She set up her first micro-upcycling kitchen prototype in a community centre called Kutumba in Doddagubbi. Here, the community members receive flour from Saving Grains that are turned into chapatis for consumption or sale.

"We also organise cooking and baking classes at Kutumba, and it's truly heartening to witness a diverse audience that is so keen on learning," she shares. "We want to build an ecosystem around upcycling food, where everyone involved plays a vital role," she says. Her collaborative model engages community centres, breweries, and other stakeholders to create a comprehensive approach to waste reduction and community empowerment.

To know more, follow Saving Grains on Instagram (savinggrains)

Swathi Nair

Trunks get a second lease of life

The Re-Trunk Project by A Hundred Hands transforms memories into functional art

Ruth Dhanaraj

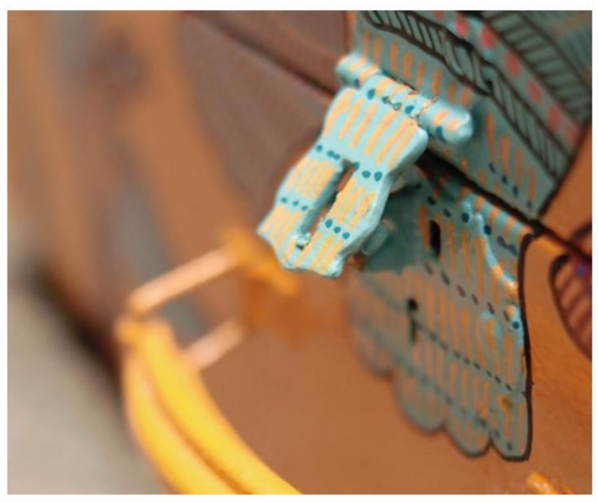
Almost every Indian household has trunks stowed under beds or stashed away in the attic or dumped in a garage. In a basic, boring shade of grey, these (mostly) Army-issue foot lockers are functional and far outlive their original purpose.

Now, thanks to a makeover by A Hundred Hands, a non-profit trust in Bengaluru, these trunks enjoy a second lease of life.

According to Mala Dhawan, co-founder of the Trust with her sister, Sonia, they had been mulling over the idea for a while now since they hail from an Army background. "We were also looking at ways we could help traditional artisans visualise options to monetise their art."

Besides this, Mala says, "We were looking at ways to give traditional art a functional purpose." The project gained momentum a few months ago when A Hundred Hands transformed a wall at the Central Army Command in Lucknow with Gond art. "While there, we asked a few people if they'd like to get their trunks re-done and the response was tremendous."

"We widened the scope of this initiative to include wooden trunks as well as new chests and hope to extend this idea to other art



Trunk call These functional works of art are completely customised SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

forms as well." For this project, Gond artists were brought down from their hometown in Madhya Pradesh. Mala says when they took on the project, they

had no idea it would involve a great deal of work. "There's a whole process to the refurbishing of these trunks. They have to be sanded, smoothened, tinkered with in case of dents and have multiple coats of paint applied; it takes about three to four weeks to complete one piece."

The trunks are completely customised. Gond art utilises bright tones and nature motifs and stories involving birds, animals and flowers. However, elephants were the most popular choice, says Mala.

Apart from boosting the concept of upcycling and helping craftsmen with a different perspective of their skills, Mala says the initiative revived beautiful memories. "While it preserves a piece of your past, it gives traditional artists a chance to earn as much as contemporary ones. We have expanded our repertoire to include mirror frames in Gond and folk art too."

Priced upwards of ₹12,500, mail a100hands@gmail.com or whatsapp 98450 08482 for details.

CITYBEATS

Father's day special

On from the second to the third week of June

Magnolia Bakery has curated a range of desserts to celebrate Father's Day – truffle inscription cupcakes or a customized cake. These are hand made and can be pre-ordered.

On at all Magnolia outlets.

Toss it up at Brik Oven

On till end of June at all Brik Oven outlets

Brik Oven launches a new salad menu featuring in-house cheese. The salad includes fresh local produce and is assured to be nutritious with salads such as smoked beetroot and blood orange salad and Hawaiian chicken salad to name a few.

THE HINDU GROUP

Gold Winner
PRESENTS

The search for the Master Chef of Karnataka
THE HINDU
our State our Taste

CO PRESENTED BY
SINCE 1932 RKG AGMARK GHEE

POWERED BY
Butterfly 40 Years of Excellence

IN ASSOCIATION WITH
AASHIRVAAD
Parry's Sweetening lives since 1842

*Map not to scale.

DO YOU HAVE THE RECIPE FOR FAME AND SUCCESS?

Karnataka's most delicious contest is coming to your town. Cook a traditional Kannada dish, or give it a special twist and bring it to the venue.

If our jury loves it, you could be shortlisted for the grand live cooking finale in Bengaluru. Your culinary skills can make you the next **Master Chef of Karnataka.**

Get your dishes judged by Celebrity Chef duo

Oggarane Dabbi Murali & Suchitra Muralidhar

To participate:
Scan the QR code or register at **bit.ly/OSOT2023** (or) **WhatsApp / Call / SMS** your Name <space> City <space> Name of dish to:
97422 89 548 / 97422 89 746

1 LAKH* FIRST PRIZE

60,000* SECOND PRIZE

40,000* THIRD PRIZE

T&C apply.

Gold Winner Mandatory to present one dish using Gold Winner cooking oil and bring the used wrapper/container to the contest venue.

Regional winners from each city will get products from Butterfly 40 Years of Excellence

Bring wrapper/ containers of **RKG Ghee, Aashirvaad Atta & Bambino** to the venue and get extra points.

MYSORE JUNE 10, 2023	**CHAMRAJNAGAR** JUNE 11, 2023	**KODAGU** JUNE 17, 2023	**HASSAN** JUNE 18, 2023	**MANDYA** JUNE 24, 2023	**RAMNAGARA** JUNE 25, 2023
BENGALURU JULY 01, 2023	**CHIKBALLAPUR** JULY 02, 2023	**MANGALORE** JULY 08, 2023	**UDUPI** JULY 09, 2023	**TUMKUR** JULY 15, 2023	**SHIVAMOGA** JULY 16, 2023
DAVANGERE JULY 22, 2023	**BALLARI** JULY 23, 2023	**HUBBALLI** JULY 29, 2023	**BELAGAVI** JULY 30, 2023	**GADAG** AUGUST 05, 2023	**KOPPAL** AUGUST 06, 2023
RAICHUR AUGUST 12, 2023	**YADGIR** AUGUST 13, 2023	**BIDAR** AUGUST 19, 2023	**KALABURGI** AUGUST 20, 2023	**BAGALKOT** AUGUST 26, 2023	**BIJAPUR** AUGUST 27, 2023

GRAND FINALE BENGALURU - SEPTEMBER 10, 2023

Presenting Partner Gold Winner | Co Presented by RKG AGMARK GHEE | Powered by Butterfly 40 Years of Excellence | In association with AASHIRVAAD Parry's Sweetening lives since 1842 | Vermicelli Partner Bambino

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of resolution plans approved by the NCLT in FY23

180 The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has the highest-ever number of resolution plans so far, resulting in a total realisation of ₹51,424 crore from stressed assets. PTI

The number of J&K govt. employees under the IT scanner

28,000 These J&K govt. employees are under the scanner of the Income Tax department for claiming bogus refunds while filing their ITRs. PTI

The number of Ukrainian children killed in the war

500 Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy provided the number hours after rescue workers found the body of a two-year-old girl who died in one of the latest Russian strikes. PTI

Walmart's shareholding in PhonePe declines

85 Walmart's shareholding in decacorn fintech firm PhonePe has declined from 89% following its ongoing fundraising of $1 billion. PhonePe has now raised a total of $850 million in primary capital. PTI

The expenditure of the Telangana govt. to provide free power

12,000 In ₹ crore per year. The CM said that they were spending this to provide free power to farmers. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

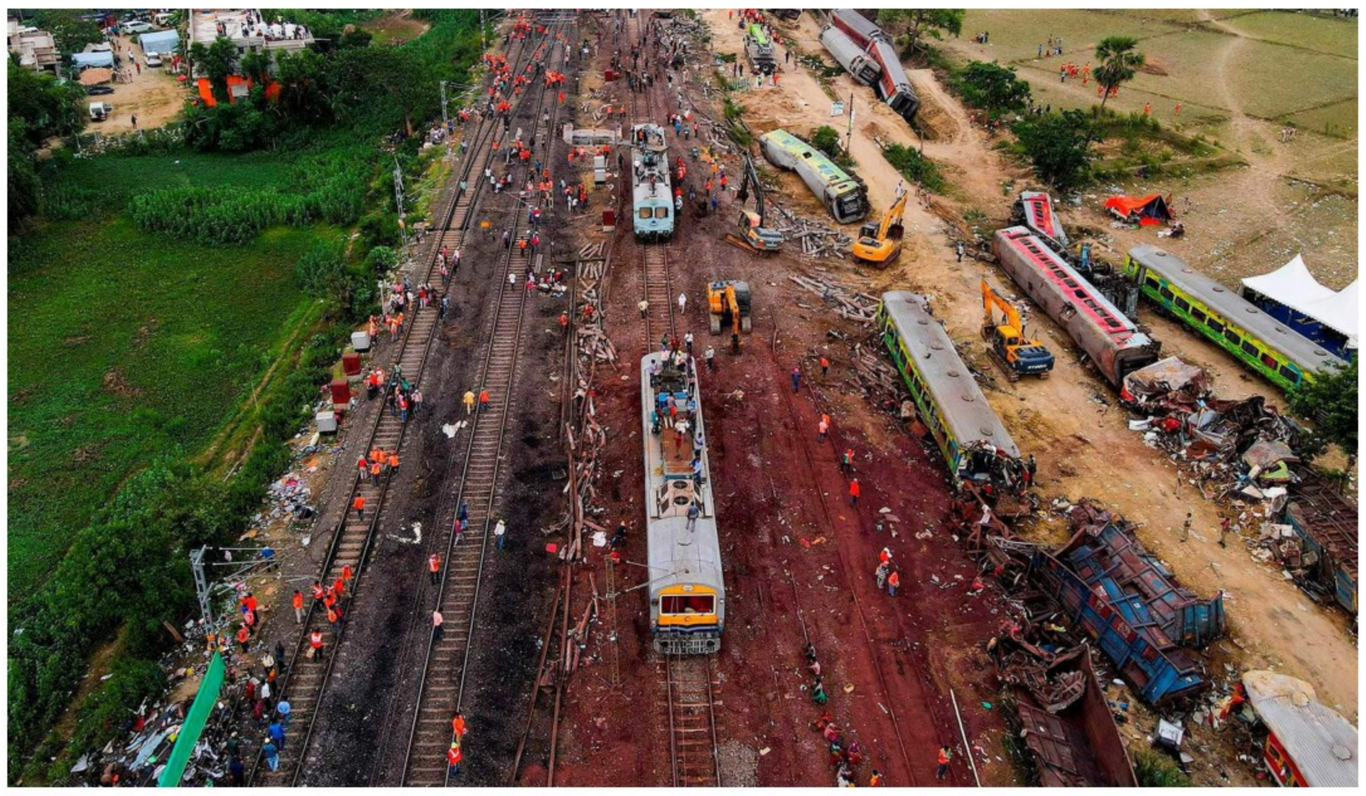
Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Understanding the Kavach system

What are the salient features of the indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation? In which networks and routes has the system been implemented?

EXPLAINER

Ravi Reddy
V. Geetanath



Tragic loss: Restoration work is underway at the site of Friday's triple train accident in Balasore district on June 4. PTI

The story so far:

The death of over 288 passengers in the ghastly train accident on June 2 at Bahanaga Bazaar railway station in the Balasore district of Odisha has brought into sharp focus the safety mechanisms needed to prevent such tragedies.

What is Kavach?

The KAVACH is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system by the Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) in collaboration with the Indian industry. The trials were facilitated by the South Central Railway to achieve safety in train operations across Indian Railways. It is a state-of-the-art electronic system with Safety Integrity Level-4 (SIL-4) standards. It is meant to provide protection by preventing trains to pass the signal at Red (which marks danger) and avoid collision. It activates the train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions. In addition, it prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems. The system also relays SoS messages during emergency situations. An added feature is the centralised live monitoring of train movements through the Network Monitor System. 'Kavach' is one of the cheapest, SIL-4 certified technologies where the probability of error is 1 in 10,000 years.

How does Kavach work on Railway Systems?

The Traffic collision avoidance system (TCAS), with the help of equipment on board the locomotive and transmission towers at stations connected with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, helps in two-way communication between the station master and loco-pilot to convey any emergency message. The instrument panel inside the cabin helps the loco-pilot know about the signal in advance without visual sighting, and the permissible speeds to be maintained. If a red signal is jumped and two trains come face to face on the same line, the technology automatically takes over and applies sudden brakes. Additionally, the hooter activates by itself when approaching a level crossing which serves as a big boon to loco-pilots during fog conditions when visibility is low.

Both the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express and the Yeshwanthpur-Howrah Express were not fitted with KAVACH-TACS. The Kavach system project is yet to be implemented on the Howrah-Kharagpur-Chennai line. However, Jaya Varma Sinha, a member of the Operation and Business Development, Railway Board, reasoned that the reaction time and distance were very short as the train was travelling at a very high speed. "If an obstruction comes suddenly in front of a high-moving vehicle then no technology in the world would prevent an accident," she explained at a press conference.

Where has Kavach been implemented?

The Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inspected the trial of the Kavach working system between Gullaguda-Chitgidda Railway stations on Lingampalli-Vikarabad section in the Secunderabad Division of South Central Railway last March.

The South Central Railway (SCR) Zone is a pioneer in the implementation of the KAVACH - (TACS). The Kavach system has been deployed over 1,465 kms in the SCR limits in 77 locomotives and 135 stations till March this year. Additionally, the Secunderabad-based Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering & Telecommunications (IRISET) hosts the 'Centre of Excellence' for Kavach. IRISET has been mandated by the Railway Board to train the inservice railway staff on Kavach. The Institute's Kavach lab carries out round the year training programmes.

What is the Kavach deployment strategy?

Kavach implementation is being taken up in a focused manner by the Railway Board. The first priority are the High Density Routes and the New Delhi-Mumbai and New Delhi-Howrah Sections, as they have higher chances of accidents because the trains run closer to each other. The second priority lines are the Highly Used Networks, the third ones are other Passenger High Density Routes and the final priority is of course to cover all other routes. The RDSO has approved three firms –Medha Servo Drives, HBL and Kernex – for providing Kavach equipment with two more being in the pipeline. Glitches about vulnerability of a vehicle crossing a closed level crossing, stray cattle or boulders on track, radio communication issues in tunnels, ghat sections, have been tackled.

THE GIST

- The KAVACH – (TACS) activates a train's braking system automatically if the driver fails to control the train as per speed restrictions. In addition, it prevents the collision between two locomotives equipped with functional Kavach systems.
- Both the Shalimar-Chennai Coromandel Express and the Yeshwanthpur-Howrah Express were not fitted with KAVACH-TACS.
- The South Central Railway (SCR) Zone is a pioneer in the implementation of the KAVACH – (TACS). The Kavach system has been deployed over 1,465 kms in the SCR limits in 77 locomotives and 135 stations till March this year.

Why does North Korea want spy satellites?

Why is the isolated nation developing spy satellites? What are the other strategic developments in the region? Will more sanctions weaken N. Korea?

Harini Madhusudan

The story so far:

On May 31, a North Korean military reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1 was launched through a new type of rocket named Chollima-1. The satellite is said to have flown for about 10 minutes before crashing into the Yellow Sea. The Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported the failure as the instability in the rocket's engine and fuel system. The launch, however, prompted evacuation warnings and emergency alerts in parts of South Korea and Japan. The U.S., Japan and South Korea expressed 'strong condemnation' to the launch.

What is N. Korea's space programme?

North Korea in the past decade has had an active space program that is closely related to its missile program. Satellite launch vehicles use the same core technology as long-range missiles that deliver warheads capable of destroying intercontinental targets. (the Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles or ICBMs). Starting from 1998, North Korea successfully orbited its first satellite in 2012 after three failed attempts. The launch vehicle used was Unha-3, a likely variant of Taepodong-2 ICBM. The Unha-type launch vehicle was also used in the 2016 launch of Pyongyang's Earth Observation satellite. The flight on May 31 was the sixth satellite launch by Pyongyang. It was done through the Chollima-1 which is a new space launcher known to have an engine that is similar to North Korea's dual-nozzle liquid-fuel machine used in Hwasong-15 ICBM.

Additionally, in April, North Korea announced that it had completed the construction of its first spy satellite.

Why does it want assets in space?

The North Korean spy satellites are expected to play a crucial role in providing advanced surveillance technology, that covers a large portion of the region, to improve the ability to strike targets during conflict. Kim Jong Un, the leader of North Korea, stated that the nation would have the capability to "use preemptive military force when the situation demands."

Moreover, North Korea's space programme is a response to other strategic developments in the region. Earlier, the U.S. announced that it would be activating U.S. Space Forces Korea. This system would provide South Korea with advanced capabilities of missile warning and satellite communications throughout the Korean peninsula and its proximate areas. On May 25, South Korea successfully launched its Nuri rocket that is designed to assist Seoul's efforts to develop a space-based surveillance system. These developments nudged Pyongyang to hasten the launch of Malligyong-1.

What does this mean for East Asia?

The security anxiety in East Asia in response to the North Korean satellite launch reveals a sense of urgency among the regional powers. North Korea no longer needs to develop its long-range missile technology under the guise of satellites since its test-firing in 2017. Pyongyang seems unafraid to reveal its technological intentions and strengthen its security apparatus in the region. While the launch is a breach of the UN Security Council resolutions, it is unlikely to attract additional economic sanctions. This displays the weak effectiveness of sanctions imposed on North Korea.

Additionally, while the international responses to the launch were largely focused on the missile technology, the possibility of a successful set of four to five military satellites by Pyongyang in-orbit would provide North Korea's military the surveillance capacity that covers the region, strengthening its missile-launch capabilities.

The writer is a Doctoral Scholar at the National Institute of Advanced Studies

THE GIST

- On May 31, a North Korean military reconnaissance satellite Malligyong-1 was launched through a new type of rocket named Chollima-1.
- North Korea has had an active space program that is closely related to its missile program. Satellite launch vehicles use the same core technology as long-range missiles.
- North Korea's space programme is a response to other strategic developments in the region

Move to withdraw anti-cow slaughter Act triggers row

BJP set to hold its first State-wide protest against the Congress government today and tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The indication by Animal Husbandry Minister K. Venkatesh that the anti-cow slaughter legislation would be withdrawn has triggered a political slugfest with the Opposition BJP set to hold its first State-wide protest against the Congress government on Monday and Tuesday.

It may be noted that bringing in the anti-cow slaughter legislation was on the priority list of the erstwhile BJP dispensation as it catered to its core ideology. The statement by the Congress Ministers that such a legislation would be withdrawn has ruffled the feathers of the BJP, which lost the recently held Karnataka Assembly polls.

"We will not allow the Congress government to withdraw the anti-cow slaughter legislation. We will stage a protest across the State on Monday and in Bengaluru on Tuesday against such a move," BJP State general secretary and MLC N. Ravikumar told *The Hindu*. "We will intensify our agitation if the government does not change its plans," he warned.

Bringing in the anti-cow slaughter legislation was on the priority list of the erstwhile BJP dispensation as it catered to its core ideology. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Taking serious exception to the government fixing a ceiling for free power supply by considering the yearly average consumption of households, he described it as hoodwinking voters and said the party's two-day protest would also cover these aspects.

Former Chief Minister and BJP leader Basavaraj Bommai too took exception to the Animal Husbandry Minister's remarks as to why the old cows should not be slaughtered. In a series of tweets, he said: "We have an emotional bonding with cows and worship them. How can we demand that they be slaughtered?" He remarked that the Minister might be making such remarks to ensure that the Chief Minister changes his portfolio. Otherwise, the Minister should be told to make suitable corrections in his functioning style, he said. He said cow slaughter was opposed first by Mahatma Gandhi.

Meanwhile, Minister Vinay Kulkarni, who is also a prominent dairy farmer of the State, opposed the anti-cow slaughter legislation and stressed the need for withdrawing it. "The BJP leaders just talk about cows and they have no knowledge about rearing them. How can they understand issues involved in rearing them? Who will take care of male calves of HF breeds as they are of no use to farmers," he said.

CM asks milk unions to put on hold reduction in procurement price

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU/MYSURU/
SHIVAMOGGA

The reduction in procurement price of milk by the district milk unions has come under the scanner of the newly elected State government with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday asking the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) to put any downward price revision on hold.

While Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. (Bamul) had reduced ₹1.5 per litre of milk procured from the farmer, Mandya Milk Union Ltd. (Manmul) had cut the price by ₹1 per litre. A few other unions, KMF sources said, were also in the process of cutting down the procurement price when the direction came from the Chief Minister.

Milk being procured from farmers at a milk co-operative society in Malur village, Channapatna taluk, of Ramanagara district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

In Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban and Ramanagara districts, farmers get ₹34 per litre while it is ₹32.25 per litre in Mandya district. Among other districts, milk producers in Hassan and Shivamogga districts get ₹34.5 and ₹33.71 per litre, respectively.

A note from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) said that Mr. Siddaramaiah has directed KMF authorities to not take any decision to reduce procurement price, and discuss with the State government in future before taking such a decision. Following the order, Bamul sources said that the decision to reduce the price has been put on hold. It is a common practice to increase the procurement price in summer to support the farmers and also to ensure steady procurement of milk, and this hike is rolled back when milk production increases, sources said.

"Currently, Bamul is losing ₹1 per litre of milk sold in retail. It is also unable to divert milk for products, which is profitable, since it has to ensure retail milk supply to Bengaluru," Bamul president Narasimhamurthy explained to *The Hindu*. He said: "Bamul pays ₹34 per litre as procurement price and ₹1.50 per litre to the societies besides paying commission to the retail milk agents. The union is left with ₹1.50 per litre, which is meagre to cover the transportation and packaging among other overheads. In the current procurement price regime, the monthly loss for Bamul is expected to be around ₹15 crore."

In most other district unions too, problems remain the same as price had been increased in summer to attract more milk and also support farmers as fodder availability comes down. Meanwhile, sources said that the overall procurement that had seen a dip in summer due to off season is slowly picking up as several areas have received rains resulting in availability of green fodder.

(*Inputs from Sharath S. Srivatsa, Shankar Bennur, and Sathish G.T.*)

Milk unions may seek hike in sale price

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Milk unions are likely to seek another round of hike in sale price of milk.

According to Bamul president Narasimhamurthy, the government allowed a hike of ₹2 per litre in the last four years. "The input costs went up and irregular hike meant, the hike amount was not sufficient. We will ask the government to increase the milk sales price by ₹5 per litre," he added.

M.B. Patil condemns remarks by Sulibele

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAPURA

M.B. Patil, Minister for Industries, has condemned the comments by Hindutva writer and orator Chakravarty Sulibele, comparing Karnataka government to Hitler's regime. Speaking to journalists in Vijayapura on Sunday, he said: "Why should someone like Mr. Sulibele talk about our government? What are his achievements in the past? He has gone around dividing the society on communal lines by speaking about provocative issues. People like him have only done divisive work. They have spread the venom of communalism and hatred for minorities and deprived classes. Such things will not be entertained further. Strong legal action will be taken against them," Mr. Patil said.

However, we will provide a government that will protect the interests of all communities and preserve and protect communal harmony, he said.

Elephant Task Forces will be set up in Bannerghatta and Ramanagara: Khandre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Forest, Ecology and Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Sunday announced the formation of two Elephant Task Forces at Bannerghatta and Ramanagara to control human-elephant conflict.

"Currently, Elephant Task Forces are operating in Hassan, Chikkamagaluru, Kodagu, Mysuru, and Chamarajanagar and separate task forces will be formed in Ramanagara and Bannerghatta," he said.

He also visited the residence of Veerabhadra and Kalayya who died in an elephant attack in Ramanagara district and presented a cheque of ₹15 lakh.

The Minister said that elephants come to human settlement to consume jackfruit, sugarcane and coffee beans and in order to prevent it, solar wire fencing and hanging solar fences are some of the solutions which will be installed in jumbo-infested areas.

He said that 132 km of barricading work is being carried out near the Cauvery Wildlife Sanctuary, of which 89 km has been completed.

He also said that forest officials have been instructed to take action against elephant poaching in Hassan, Kodagu, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Ramanagara, Bannerghatta areas and also ensure that there is no loss of life. "There is a plan to lay 641 km of barricades and solar fences across the State, of which 360 km have been completed. Although there are 629 elephants in the State, the human casualty rate is very low compared to other States. Human life is precious and the government is bound to take all necessary measures to avoid loss of life," he said.

In 2019-20, there were 50 human deaths due to wild animal attacks in the State, of which 29 were due to elephants. "While 41 deaths occurred during 2020-21, in 2021-22 there were 29 deaths and in 2022-23 so far there have been 51 deaths out of which 29 were due to elephant attacks," he said.

The Minister said that while construction of a railway barricade will cost ₹ 1.5 crore per km, hanging solar fences and solar wire fences will cost ₹ 6 lakh.

Stone barriers

The Minister during his visit was accompanied by Kanakapura MP D.K. Suresh, Ramanagara MLA Iqbal Hussain and MLC S. Ravi. Responding to Mr. Suresh's suggestion that elephant menace can be avoided if thick stone barricades are constructed instead of solar fences, Mr. Khandre directed officials to submit a comparative report on railway barricades and stone barriers.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580 • Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

UPSC - IAS
ECONOMICS (OPTIONAL)
Ravindra N. Jha
CSE - 2022 RESULT
Congratulations
VIDUSHI SINGH AIR - 13
ANOUSHKA SHARMA AIR - 20
VAISHNAVI PAUL AIR - 62
AYUSH GOEL AIR - 171
ARJUN GUPTA AIR - 228
AAKRITI SETHI AIR - 249
PRASHANT SHARMA AIR - 259
MANNAT LUTHRA AIR - 382
ATUL SAGAR AIR - 403
ISHAN AGARWAL AIR - 409
DEEPAK YADAV AIR - 495
GAURAV YADAV AIR - 503
MAYA CHAHAR AIR - 547
ZENDEN LINGERPA AIR - 598
SHREY SINGH AIR - 716
UMESH MEENA AIR - 729
BATCH - 1 01st JUNE, 2023
BATCH - 2 20th JUNE, 2023
ADMISSION OPEN ONLINE / OFFLINE
TEST SERIES 11th JUNE, 2023
BLISS POINT STUDIES®
join the best...to do your best
57/17, 1ST FLOOR NEAR HDFC BANK OLD RAJENDER NAGAR, DELHI-110060
9811343411, 9811343464, 9811343938, 011-45076221

NO. 1 INSTITUTE FOR IAS/IFoS EXAMINATIONS
HYD. 9652351152 9652661152
IMS (INSTITUTE OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES)
DELHI 011-45629987 9999197625
MATHEMATICS by K. Venkanna
HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS TO
OUR SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS IN CSE-2022
AIR 16 SHISHIR KUMAR SINGH
AIR 24 SANDEEP KUMAR
AIR 27 YADAV SURYABHAN A.
And many more...
IMS ANNOUNCES FRESH BATCHES for MAINS-2024-25
REGULAR BATCHES Batch-1 06 JUNE Batch-2 20 JUNE
WEEKEND BATCHES Batch-1 10 JUNE Batch-2 24 JUNE
MAINS TEST SERIES 2023 STARTS ON 04 JUNE
OFFLINE / ONLINE
Office : Delhi-60 & Hyderabad -20

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

LUKMAAN IAS
...Celebrating 12 years of its establishment
Ethics
Foundation Batch 2023-24
GS-IV By: S. Ansari
Starts From 12th June
Offline Mode & Live Online Mode
The only program which can match with Lengthy Ethics Paper of CSE Mains 2023
141 Marks in CSE 2022
AIR 2 GARIMA LOHIA
Ethics Test Series From: 22nd June 2023
132 Marks in CSE 2022
AIR 3 UMA HARATHI N
Ethics Case Studies From: 10th July 2023
OUR TOP RANKERS FROM ETHICS COURSES
AIR 01 CSE-2019
AIR 02 CSE-2015
AIR 03 CSE-2019
AIR 05 CSE-2016
AIR 05 CSE-2021
AIR 07 CSE-2018
AIR 08 CSE-2018
AIR 09 CSE-2017
AIR 09 CSE-2020
AIR 10 CSE-2020
850 60 999 19 | www.lukmaanias.com
Address: 60/17, 2nd Floor, Old Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi-60

TENDERS

CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE
Ida Scudder Road Vellore - 4.
TENDER NOTICE
Tenders are invited for supply of Hospital Uniform for Staff in CMC Vellore for the year 2023.
Suppliers may contact Purchase Department for Tender forms, which will be issued on payment of Rs.500/- through DD in favoring "CMC VELLORE ASSOCIATION".
Tender forms will be issued from 05.06.2023 to 23.06.2023, during office hours. Completed forms should reach us on or before 23.06.2023 by 4.00 p.m.
General Superintendent
CMC Vellore

TENDERS

The Pondicherry Co-operative Milk Producers' Union Ltd., No. P.1
Ref No.: Ponlait/e-purchase/Milk Distribution Routes/E-Tender/2018
www.pudutenders.gov.in
e-Tender for engaging hired vehicle for transporting of Milk in Tubs/Cans and Milk & Milk Products
Name : Transporting of Milk in Tubs / Cans. e-Tender id: 2023_COOP_12781_1. Last Date for Submission : 26.06.2023
Name :Transporting of Milk & Milk Products e-Tender id: 2023_COOP_12780_1. Last Date for Submission : 27.06.2023
MANAGING DIRECTOR
Contact:. 0413-2224750, 9865451533, 9942994118;
e-mail id: ponlaitmd@gmail.com
e-procurement cell: 0413-2220225

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

UPSC CSE 2022-23
RESULTS AT KSG
5 Out of 5
8 Out of 10
74 Out of 100
228 Out of 300
374 Out of 500
520 Out of 700
668 Out of 900
682 Out of 933
KSG
An Institute For IAS Exam...
Our Karnataka Toppers
H S BHAVANA AIR- 55 UPSC 2022-23
SAURABH A N AIR- 198 UPSC 2022-23
AKASH A L AIR- 210 UPSC 2022-23
P SRAVAN KUMAR AIR- 222 UPSC 2022-23
CHALUVARAJU R AIR- 238 UPSC 2022-23
With Same Delhi Team
UPSC IAS - 2024 FOUNDATION COURSE 10 TO 11 MONTHS PROGRAM Starting From... 19th June
UPSC IAS - 2025 ADVANCE FOUNDATION COURSE 2 YEARS PROGRAM ESPECIALLY DESIGNED COURSE FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS Starting From... 23rd June
A1, 2nd Floor, Mamoor Plaza, Above Airtel Office, 2nd Cross Road, 5th Block, Koramangala, BENGALURU
76191 66663 080-48544393
www.ksgbengaluru.com
QR CODE SCAN FOR WEBSITE

VISION IAS™ INSPIRING INNOVATION
Scan the QR code to Download Toppers' Answer Copies
www.visionias.in
Heartiest Congratulations to all candidates selected in CSE 2022
39 IN TOP 50
SELECTIONS IN CSE 2022
from various programs of VISIONIAS
1 AIR ISHITA KISHORE
2 AIR GARIMA LOHIA
3 AIR UMA HARATHI N
OFFLINE IAS FOUNDATION BATCH 2024
ADMISSIONS OPEN
Prelims Cum Mains @ 12 JUNE 2023
LIMITED SEATS
35+ SELECTIONS FROM VISIONIAS HYDERABAD CENTRE IN CSE 2022
SM PLAZA, BESIDE SUDARSHAN THEATRE, RTC 'X' ROAD, HYDERABAD.
9000104133

EDUCATIONAL
VACANCIES

WANTED PRINCIPAL Applications are invited from the eligible candidates having Qualifications as per the UGC norms for the post of Principal for our college. Filled-in applications should reach the undersigned through proper channel by registered post on or before 19.06.2023. SECRETARY, Cardamom Planters' Association College, Pankajam Nagar, Bodinayakanur - 625 513, Theni (DT), Tamil Nadu.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE Publics are hereby informed that my client Sri. Ganesh. M. s/o. Sri. Mony. S. and Smt. Lakshmi Prabha. G. w/o. Sri. Ganesh. M., Residing at No. 301, 4th A Main,1st Stage, 2nd Block, HBR Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore 560 043 and intend to enter into Absolute Sale Deed with the Owner/s Sri. Rajendra Kumar s/o. Late B. Ramaiah, Smt. Sathyavani w/o. Sri. Rajendra Kumar, Ms. Sahana. S. d/o. Sri. Rajendra Kumar, all are residing at #U146, 7th Main, 10th Cross, R. Gopalswamy Iyer Colony, Srirampuram, Bangalore North, Bangalore– 560 021 are the absolute owner/s in respect of Vacant Site bearing No. 672, situated at 5th G Block, Anjanapura Layout, Bangalore formed by BDA measuring East to West: 12.0 meters., and North to South: 9.0 meters., in total measuring 108.00 Sq. mts., and bounded on East by : Site No. 655, West by: Road, North by : Site No. 673 and South by : Site No. 671. Any person or any authority or any promoters having any asserting right, title, interest and claims to oppose for Absolute Sale Deed of property and further having any manner of right, title, claims etc., and may lodge their objections, claims over the property along with relevant papers in support of their claims, right to the below address within 15 days from the date of this notice, if any objections fails to comply, my client shall take further steps for entering into Absolute Sale Deed of property. LINGARAJ. S. NADAGOUDA.,ADVOCATENo.1854, 17th Main, 30th B Cross,HBR Layout, 1st Stage, 5th Block,Bangalore –560 043.Mob: 9620474780, 9448135970

READ SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

KEYWORD

The struggles against the caste order have often been launched through an assertion of caste. FILE PHOTO

How the reification of caste will not lead to a true politics of change and justice

While the recognitory and assertive aspect of identity politics is emancipatory, it reinforces caste. The reified individual fighting caste hegemony — howsoever sincere — remains limited in contributing to the annihilation of caste

Moggallan Bharti

When a young woman cop in the movie *Kathal* streaming on an OTT, counters an upper caste man by normalising the idea of lower caste people as thieves, what we witnessed as viewers is the process of reification. In the movie, the scheduled caste woman cop retorts that she doesn't steal but instead sends thieves to prison. Here we see the acceptance of the Hindu caste system by a scheduled caste police officer. Not only does she accept the deeply hierarchical caste system, she also reiterates the stereotypes and prejudices attached with the same – in this instance, of lower caste persons being thieves. By not countering the stereotype she proudly, albeit implicitly, asserts that though a lower caste person, she doesn't steal. Thus caste, which is a socio-religious construct put into place to benefit a small minority of upper castes, gets cemented. This is the reification of caste. Reification is the turning of an abstract, intangible idea into a fixed belief. It occurs when people start believing in the concreteness of a concept, when in actuality the concept exists in an amorphous abstract form, and is mostly the result of socio-economic processes.

The development of the concept

The most influential work on reification was developed in *History and Class Consciousness* by the Hungarian Marxist thinker Georg Lukacs (1923), wherein the idea was used to explain the growing hold of technocratic, bureaucratic and capitalist relations on the legal system in the early twentieth century. That is, a belief system or social relations created out of larger capitalist frameworks was being normalised as common, concrete and inevitable. The reified individual, that is the worker, then becomes an automaton working aimlessly bound within a normalised socio-legal set up of capitalist society. The only way the working class can break out of this framework is through de-reification, which is essentially a realisation of 'self-consciousness' or in other words class consciousness.

Andrew Feenberg (2015) in his paper 'Lukács's Theory of Reification and Contemporary Social Movements, Rethinking Marxism' explains that class consciousness occurs when the reified individual come to terms with the conflict between labour and life. Since this individual is irreducible to economy – an economy dominated by capitalist modes of production – he will eventually confront capitalist social reality in order to be aware of class struggle. And it is this self-realisation of his mechanical existence, bound by capitalist laws, that will lead to his de-reification as a worker. He will then acknowledge his existence as part of the working class which has a revolutionary potential to transform society.

It is interesting to note that the idea of reification in a capitalist social reality is essentially a worker defined by his labour alone, situated in the techno-legal associations borne in a capitalist set up and estranged from the product of his labour. The idea of reification, in this light, is very similar to Marx's theory of alienation from his early writings. However, reification is a very specific kind of alienation, whereby one gets isolated from the very spirit of the human mind which is boundless. In other words, reification leads to a very limited and restrictive mind, resulting in extremely constricted political growth, or none at all.

On recognition

Axel Honneth (2008) in his work *Reification-A New Look at an Old idea*, states that reification cannot be understood through economic totality alone as argued by Lukacs. The horrors brought upon by sexism, racism, fascism and closer home, the ubiquitous caste system, operates with or without the overarching capitalist social reality. Therefore, Honneth argues that reification is the resultant outcome of the 'forgetfulness of recognition'. To put it simply, the lack of recognition from other individuals affects one's 'self', resulting in the formation of a reified individual. Thus reification, in the Honnethian scheme of things, is essentially a misrecognition or the devaluation of an individual.

However, this idea of 'primacy of recognition' has been roundly criticised by the likes of Judith Butler among others. While the juxtaposing of reification within the larger politics of recognition may or may not have takers, it certainly offers a very rich and insightful angle to the subject.

The caste paradox

The idea of reification is essentially treating abstract concepts as real through the ideological hegemony of the socially and economically dominant sector.

In India, the dominant precondition of social relations continues to be caste. It is strictly followed in most familial rituals, especially in marriages signifying the endogamous nature of caste groups. Another defining criterion to understand caste is the graded hierarchy inbuilt within the caste system, whereby caste groups are pegged one over another in the 'ascending scale of reverence' and the 'descending scale of contempt'. This means that individuals belonging to varied caste groups have graded privileges as they go up the caste order, and are at a disadvantage when they go down the caste hierarchy. One has to deal with the corresponding caste privileges and disadvantages which were predetermined by the accident of birth.

However, marginalised masses at the periphery of the caste order mobilise around their caste location to counter upper caste hegemony.

This represents the paradox of the caste.

The struggles against the caste order have often been launched through an assertion of caste – wherein lower caste solidarity counters upper caste hegemony. This is the reification which is deeply wired in the very sociology of the country. Such an assertion forms the very basis of lower caste politics.

While the recognitory and assertive aspect of identity politics is emancipatory, it reinforces caste. The reified individual fighting caste hegemony – howsoever sincere – remains limited in contributing to the annihilation of caste. Thus, reification cannot replace a truly revolutionary politics of change and justice.

Moggallan Bharti teaches at the School of Development Studies at Dr. B. R. Ambedkar University Delhi

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the World Environment Day (WED) which is observed annually on June 5 and is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1

Though the WED was established in 1972 by the United Nations in Stockholm, the first day was observed the next year. Which Swiss city was the host city and what was the theme of the inaugural WED?

QUESTION 2

Which African country will have the honour of hosting this year and what is the theme for the 50th WED?

QUESTION 3

Which world-famous independent global campaigning network for the protection of the environment was co-founded by Canadians Irving and Dorothy Stowe in 1971?

QUESTION 4

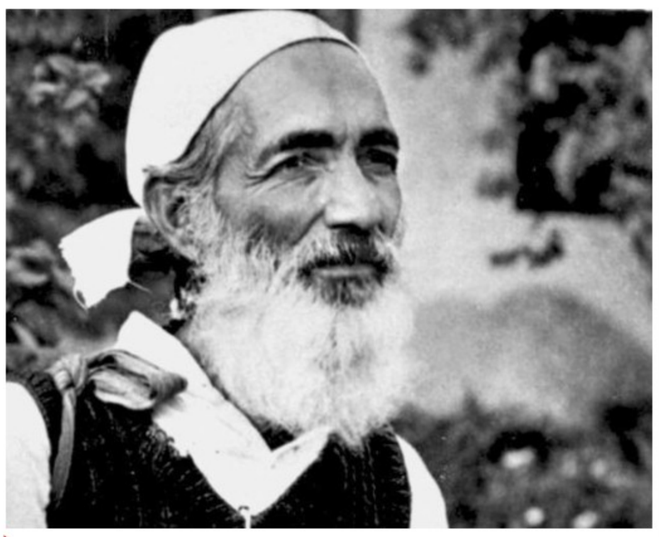
According to studies, which area in the Americas is said to produce nearly 20% of the world's breathable oxygen?

QUESTION 5

According to the UN Environment Programme, humans generate over 430 million tonnes of plastic every year. How much of it is recycled globally?

QUESTION 6

What term was coined by the zoologist Ernest Haeckel in 1866 to describe a species' relationship with its environment?



Visual question:
Name this legendary Indian environmentalist and Chipko movement leader. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This book was banned in South Africa for many years because of its two-word title. **Ans: Anna Sewell's *Black Beauty***
2. This classic French satire lampoons armies, churches and philosophers and was banned by the Catholic Church. **Ans: Voltaire's *Candide***
3.Ernest Hemingway believed that all American literature came from this book. **Ans: Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn***
4. This author's work sparked riots across the world for its allegedly blasphemous treatment of Islam. **Ans: Salman Rushdie**
5. This Sahitya Award-winning writer was suspended from service for writing this book without taking permission from his State government. **Ans: Hansda Sowvendra Shekhar's *The Adivasi Will Not Dance***
6. This writer proclaimed himself "dead" after he came under attack from Hindutva and caste outfits for his book. **Ans: Perumal Murugan**
Visual: Name this Nobel Laureate. **Ans: Bertrand Russell**
Early Birds: Samprikta| Vaishnavi Veeramani| Annusitara| Mehar Kaur| V. Siddhartha

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

When are you planning to hit the road?

I hope the new manager is someone who is a stout individual and a good leader

S. Upendran

"Are you looking forward to your trip to Goa?"

"Of course, I am! I'd be crazy not to be excited. It's been a while since I've taken a break. Mukesh and I will be hitting the road early tomorrow."

"Hitting the road? Why would you want to do that? I mean..."

"When you say that you'll be 'hitting the road', you mean that you'll be going on a trip. You'll be starting a journey, and it's likely to be a road trip. You'll be travelling by car or bus. That's one of the meanings, anyway.

"I see. How about this example? *I always have two cups of coffee before hitting the road*."

"Sounds good. I expect you to get up early and have a shower before we hit the road."

"Let's hit the road early. Otherwise, we'll get stuck in traffic."

"I usually hit the road around four in the morning."

"That's really early! In Goa, will you be staying at your friend's place?"

"Unfortunately, no. They sold the beautiful house a couple of months ago. Understand they made a handsome profit."

"Handsome profit? Are we allowed to say that? I thought the word 'handsome' was used only with men."

"It can be used with living and non-living things. When you say that you made a 'handsome profit', what you mean is that you made a big profit."

"In other words, you made a large sum of money. *I'm looking for a job that will pay me a handsome salary*."

"That's a very good example. *In last week's contest, my candidate won by a handsome margin*."

"That was expected, wasn't it? My friend makes a handsome donation to a charitable institution every month. No matter how many times I tell him not to, he makes it a point to donate."

"Really? That's truly amazing. I'd like to meet this stout individual."

"Stout individual? Rishi isn't fat. He's quite thin, actually!"

"The word 'stout' has several different meanings. One of them, as you have rightly pointed out, is fat. But you can also use it to mean 'brave' or 'determined'."

"In other words, someone who is firm. Someone who doesn't change his mind frequently."

"Exactly! He's very firm in his beliefs. The individual is unwavering. The word is normally used to show approval."

"*If you want this project to be completed on time, you need to find a strong leader. Someone with a stout heart*."

"That's a good example. Oh, look at the time! If I wish to get up early tomorrow, I'd better hit the road."

"Hit the road? Are you planning to leave for Goa now?"

"Hit the road can also be used to mean goodbye. That you are taking leave."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Profusion:
the property of being extremely abundant

Synonyms: richness, cornucopia

Usage: *Look at the profusion of detail on the new fabric.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/profusionpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /prəʊˈfjuʒən/, /prəˈfjuʒən/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CPI(Maoist) leader Katakam Sudarshan passes away at 69

P. Sridhar
Marri Ramu
HYDERABAD

Katakam Sudarshan

Top Maoist leader Katakam Sudarshan, 69, widely known as Comrade Anand, died of a heart attack in the guerrilla zone of Dandakaranya in Chhattisgarh on May 31.

The sexagenarian revolutionary was a member of the central committee and polit bureau of the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist).

He had been suffering from lung-related ailments, diabetes and high blood pressure for the past several years. He passed away at 20 minutes past noon on May 31, Wednesday, Maoist spokesperson Abhay said in a statement.

Laying foundation

Sudarshan was a first-generation revolutionary leader post the Naxalbari and Srikakulam movements and played a key role in organising, building and spreading the Maoist movement in different parts of the country for nearly five decades.

He was born into a working class family at Bellampally in undivided Adilabad district in Telangana. Sudarshan actively associated himself with people's movements at a young age. He got attracted to the revolutionary movement while pursuing a diploma in mining.

Eventually, he played a key role in constituting the Radical Students' Union. Later, he joined the party's unit in Bellampally. He was active in programmes of the Radical Youth League and Singareni Coal Mine workers' agitations. In 1978, he worked as a Maoist party organiser for the areas of Luxettipet and Jannaram areas.

Extensive record

He got into the Dandakaranya forest committee in 1987. He took over as North Zone Special Zonal Committee secretary in 1995.

The same year, he was made the member of the central committee at the All India Special Conference of the Maoist party. He would remain a great inspiration for the party workers, leaders People's Liberation Guerrilla Army members, commanders and entire revolutionary community, Mr. Abhay said.

Sudarshan was the editor of *Kranthi*, *Erra Jenda*, *People's War* and *People's March* publications at different points of time. The Maoist party called upon people and its activists to convene his memorial meetings across the country.

Naidu-Shah meeting leads to talk on a TDP-BJP alliance

It is said that the TDP supremo emphasised the need for a tie-up while briefing about the political situation in both A.P. and Telangana; BJP dismisses the reports, calling them 'kite flying stories'

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

N. Chandrababu Naidu

Telugu Desam Party (TDP) national president N. Chandrababu Naidu's meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on Saturday has triggered speculation about the BJP-TDP alliance.

As per information, Mr. Naidu had briefed Mr. Amit Shah about the political situation in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, and emphasised the need for an electoral alliance.

The Jana Sena Party (JSP), which is already in alliance with the BJP, has been advocating a tripartite understanding. Its president, Pawan Kalyan, has been underlining the need for unity among the Opposition parties in the State to ensure that the anti-government votes are not split.

Against this backdrop, the meeting has triggered speculation over a possible electoral understanding between the TDP and the BJP not just in Andhra Pradesh but also in Telangana.

But, neither the TDP nor the BJP has disclosed what transpired in the meeting.

It is widely believed that that the TDP leadership is keen on a rapprochement with the BJP.

Mr. Naidu, who had been highly critical of the BJP leadership after he parted ways with the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in 2018-19, has of late been making overtures to the saffron party.

Meanwhile, Telangana BJP president Bandi Sanjay Kumar defended Mr. Amit Shah and national BJP president J.P. Nadda meeting Mr. Naidu in New Delhi on Saturday.

He pointed out that this kind of a meeting was nothing new as Opposition leaders of States such as West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, and Bihar too had met Mr. Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi earlier, for the sake of the nation's development.

At the same time, he dismissed reports of an electoral understanding with TDP as 'rumours' and said that such "kite flying stories" need not be taken into consideration.

56 Flapshell, black turtles burnt to death in private land in Kasaragod

The Hindu Bureau
KASARAGOD

Flapshell and black turtles that were charred to death in a fire that broke out in a wetland in Kasaragod. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fifty-six turtles were burnt to death after a fire broke out on five acres of wetland at Payyanki, near Cheruvathur, in Kasaragod in Kerala on Sunday.

The private land, which has paddy, trees and shrubs, has been ablaze for the past two days. Twenty-two Indian flapshell and 34 black turtles, which come under Schedule I and Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act, were burnt to death when local people and Forest Department personnel arrived at the site to extinguish the fire, according to Kanhangad Forest Range Officer A.P. Sreejith.

Local people say the area is a habitat for several turtles and many more would have died.

A proper inspection can be done only when the fire is completely extinguished.

Mr. Sreejith said a case had been registered under Section 9 of the Wildlife Protection Act. There has been a demand for a police investigation into the frequent fires in the area.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Odisha; with lightning & gusty winds at isolated places over Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, and Maharashtra

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	2.0	38.2	24.9	Kozhikode	0.1	35.6	26.4
Ahmedabad	28.0	36.4	21.2	Kurnool	2.0	35.6	28.7
Aizawl	—	36.0	21.4	Lucknow	—	38.8	25.4
Allahabad	—	43.0	26.8	Madurai	—	40.8	27.5
Bengaluru	—	30.6	23.0	Mangaluru	—	34.8	26.9
Bhopal	—	39.7	25.4	Mumbai	—	34.6	28.8
Bhubaneswar	—	39.8	28.2	Mysuru	—	35.4	—
Chandigarh	—	35.9	23.3	New Delhi	3.0	33.7	23.8
Chennai	—	42.1	30.4	Patna	—	42.5	28.2
Coimbatore	—	35.7	25.4	Port Blair	0.1	30.3	26.8
Dehradun	—	35.3	19.9	Puducherry	—	39.9	29.6
Gangtok	1.0	25.2	17.5	Pune	—	36.7	24.5
Goa	—	36.2	27.8	Raipur	—	42.6	28.2
Guwahati	—	37.0	25.0	Ranchi	—	38.8	25.4
Hubballi				Shillong	—	26.0	16.9
Hyderabad	0.2	38.1	28.5	Shimla	—	25.0	14.4
Imphal	—	34.8	20.9	Srinagar	—	26.0	10.4
Jaipur	—	34.5	25.6	Thiruvananthapuram	2.0	32.8	24.7
Kochi	—	32.0	26.6	Tiruchi	—	38.3	28.0
Kohima	—	28.8	18.2	Vijayawada	—	41.6	29.4
Kolkata	—	37.2	29.9	Visakhapatnam	—	35.5	29.6

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	4	2	3	127	
Bengaluru	26	11	100	92	95	
Chennai	4	83	151	102	88	
Delhi	9	42	41	272	184	
Hyderabad	12	10	43	88	78	
Kolkata	11	8	20	87	97	
Lucknow	7	42	35	120	153	
Mumbai	32	13	12	14	146	
Pune	124	196	112	65	57	
Visakhapatnam	17	38	17	61	106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Begusarai, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 283 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Krishnaraja Wadiyar's rule is inspiration to me: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

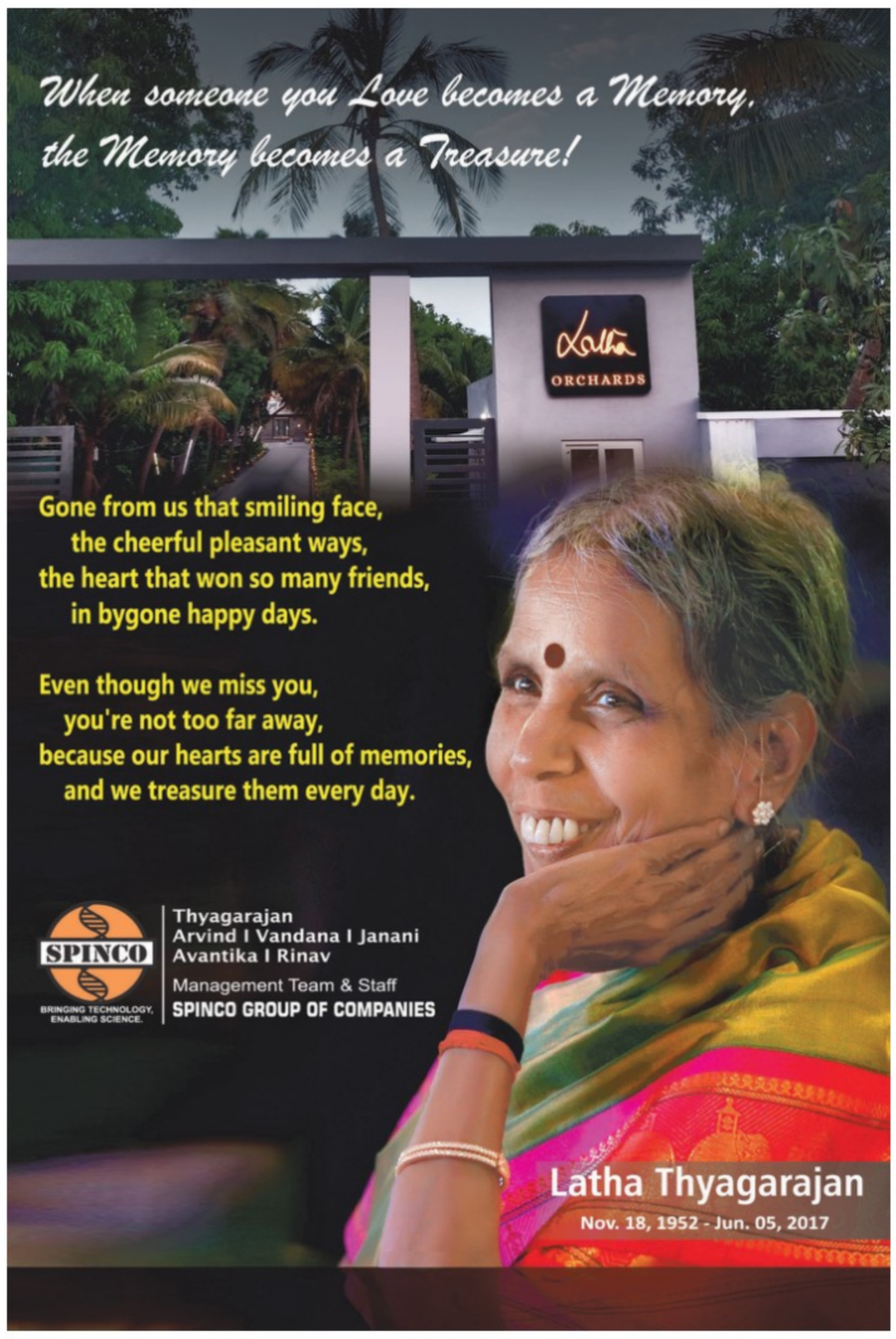
Siddaramaiah

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday offered tribute to former ruler of Mysuru Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar.

In a tweet, mr. Siddaramaiah said: "He upheld the democratic values through the establishment of elected council, strengthened the economy by establishing State Bank of Mysore, gave fillip to agriculture by constructing Krishnaraja Sagar and Vani Vilas reservoir, gave a direction to the youth by establishing Mysore University and agriculture university and offered social justice by upholding reservation policy. His rule was a golden era and an inspiration to me."

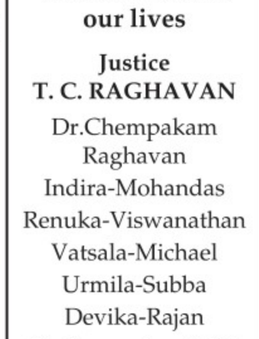
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE



Your values rule our lives

Justice
T. C. RAGHAVAN
Dr.Chempakam Raghavan
Indira-Mohandas
Renuka-Viswanathan
Vatsala-Michael
Urmila-Subba
Devika-Rajan
Raghunandan-Aditi

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com

DONATE EYES GIFT SIGHT

Creeping change

Courts should be wary of incremental steps to alter status of places of worship

By holding that a suit filed by five women to offer worship to Hindu deities at the Gyanvapi Mosque in Varanasi was maintainable, the Allahabad High Court has possibly legitimised a clever attempt to question its status. In an order that upholds a district court verdict to the same effect, Justice J.J. Munir has ruled that the suit is limited in scope to enforcing the plaintiffs' right to worship Hindu deities and that it is not an attempt to convert the mosque into a temple. As a result, he has held that the suit is not barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, a law that froze the status of places of worship as they stood on August 15, 1947. In the process, the court has rejected the objections by the Committee of Management of the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid, Varanasi, that the suit is barred by the 1991 law, as well as the Uttar Pradesh Wakf Act, 1995, and the U.P. Sri Kashi Vishwanath Temple Act, 1983. Given the fact that Hindu revanchism has been quite active in claiming that several places of worship of Muslims had been constructed on the ruins of Hindu temples after their demolishment, it is a matter of concern that the judiciary has endorsed the use of legal means to lay the foundation to building a possible future claim on the Gyanvapi Mosque.

The court is right in noting that while deciding a motion to reject a civil suit at the threshold, it has to limit itself to the assertions made in the plaint. The plaintiffs have claimed that Hindu deities were being worshipped at the mosque precincts before and after August 15, 1947. In particular, they have claimed that daily worship of Hindu deities was going on at Gyanvapi till 1990, after which it was suspended at the peak of the movement against the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya. After 1993, it was limited to a single day every year. A relevant question is whether it is merely a suit to assert a right to worship, or if it is part of a larger design. The court has rejected the objection that the suit is an instance of 'clever drafting' to cover up an attempt to change the mosque's status. However, it should be noted that the plaintiffs also question whether the mosque was built on Wakf property, and assert that property vested in the deity would remain with the deity even if the structure was destroyed. It will be truly unfortunate if the customary right of worship is allowed to lead to incremental or creeping changes to the mosque's status.

A vote for change

The Thai generals should cede power without triggering chaos

For Thai voters, the May 14 parliamentary election offered a stark choice between the royalist, military-backed government and the pro-democratic, reformist opposition. They overwhelmingly supported the latter. When the preliminary results were announced, the progressive Move Forward Party emerged as the single largest bloc with 152 seats. The Pheu Thai Party, another pro-democratic outfit led by Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, came second with 141 seats. All the pro-government parties did poorly. Both the Move Forward and the Pheu Thai have promised to stand up to the military, which captured power in 2014 through a coup, and address the country's economic issues. The Move Forward, a political upstart led by 42-year-old Pita Limjaroenrat, is now leading coalition talks and has staked a claim to form the next government. During the campaign, Mr. Pita was critical of the establishment and offered a new beginning to Thai voters. The party's manifesto promised to stop military conscription, end the "cycle of coups", tackle business monopolies and scrap the military-drafted Constitution. It also vowed to amend the controversial *lèse majesté* law, which shields the monarchy from public criticism. The Move Forward's promises helped the fledgling party easily connect with a public which was increasingly angered by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's authoritarianism and the drying up of economic opportunities.

But an electoral victory does not necessarily mean that the Move Forward has an easy way towards forming a government. The Opposition coalition has a majority (309) in the 500-member elected House, but in Thailand's 750-member bicameral Parliament (250 members of the Senate are appointed by the military), Mr. Pita would need the support of 376 legislators to form the government. His criticism of the military and the promise to amend the royal defamation law have made the generals wary of his rise. If the Senate votes as a bloc against the Opposition coalition, he would not be able to form the government. It remains to be seen what will happen between now and July 13, when the Election Commission will officially ratify the results. In the 2019 election, the Future Forward Party, the predecessor of the Move Forward, emerged the third largest party, surprising the generals. It was subsequently dissolved and its leaders banned from politics. Mr. Pita is already facing cases for allegedly violating electoral laws. But any move to stop the winners of the election from forming the government would be disastrous for a country that is on the brink. Thailand witnessed widespread pro-democracy protests in 2020, which were crushed by the regime. Some 14 million people voted for Move Forward and if the military defies their mandate, it would only widen the cracks in society. Instead, the generals should see the elections as an opportunity to cede power and allow the winners to form the next government.

Citizen activism that is missing from the wrestling ring

Asim Ali

is a political researcher and columnist

Over the past four months, a few nationally acclaimed wrestlers have been protesting against their federation chief, a strongman politician, who they accuse of both misusing his authority and of sexual harassment. On paper, the neat moral contrasts embedded in the saga seemed well suited to mobilise civil society opinion and force the government into a conciliatory posture.

Yet, as the protests met a disturbing denouement last week, the spurt of 'citizen activism' we saw a decade ago in the Nirbhaya protests and the Anna Andolan was nowhere to be seen.

The apparent impotency of the wrestler protests exhibits the narrow moral universe of middle-class rooted 'citizen activism'. This brand of activism was what steadily gained currency post-liberalisation, particularly through the spread of television and social media.

Historically, the high point of middle-class activism has lain in the colonial period. In the book, *Serving the Nation: Cultures of Service, Association, and Citizenship* (2005), the historian, Carey Anthony Watt, described "a vibrant 'associational culture"' in early 20th century India. Although this associational culture was hardly free of social conservatism and caste/community-based fractures, it also contained a pluralistic and egalitarian dimension. According to Watt, the "richly variegated, autonomous" public sphere revolved around socio-economic initiatives "undertaken by urban elites of the upper castes, lower-middle and middle classes, and directed towards individuals of lower social status."

An evolution from the Nehruvian era

However, the middle classes retreated from active civil society participation from the Nehruvian era onwards, as they assumed control of the power networks within the state-centred political economy. Meanwhile, civil society came to be hinged around the framework of "segmental loyalties", which the social-anthropologist, Ernest Gellner, held to be an inescapable fate of the 'civil' space in all traditional, heterogeneous societies. While some scholars have taken the preponderance of caste/community-based organisations to claim that the country effectively lacks a modern civil society, others have appreciated the role of these organisations in aiding democratisation and exemplifying the "modernity of tradition". "In India, religion, caste, ethnicity and language have been effectively mobilised in articulating and representing group identities and interests," as Sarbeshwar Sahoo wrote in *Civil Society and Democratization in India* (2013).

The state of the wrestlers' protests also points to the changed state of 'citizen activism' that India once saw a decade ago

It was only in the decade of rule under the United Progressive Alliance that we saw a marked resurgence of urban, middle-class activism, particularly around issues of political corruption. In her book, *India's New Middle Class* (2006), the sociologist, Leela Fernandes, captured the rising discontent of the middle classes with the "corrupting influences of mass-based politics and vote banks", combined with latent "suspicions" towards "unions, subordinate castes and Muslims".

Brand 'Aamir Khan' symbolised this middle-class worldview, where technocratic governance and entrepreneurialism were equated with progress, and the realm of politics represented social division and 'barriers to development'.

Of course, forceful critiques of this "consumer citizen" activist model were mounted by many academics. John Harriss (2007) demonstrated, through research in the city of Chennai, that the "new politics of empowerment" ignored the concerns of the urban poor, viewing them to be "denizens" who need to be 'disciplined' and 'patronized' rather than "citizens" to be centred in the discourse and practice of development.

A 'changing Indian sensibility'

Post-2014, the ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), and the personality of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, have effectively captured this middle-class space. In a recent paper, the political scientists, Aseema Sinha and Manisha Priyam, have framed the dominant political discourse as more of a demand-side phenomenon, reflecting the "changing Indian sensibility, especially among India's professional and middle classes.".

Thus, the middle classes now represent a kind of a civil society base of the BJP, which perhaps explains a weakening attachment towards independent social actors, as the wrestlers discovered. "The consolidation of Hindu nationalism in India is being authored not only by parties or the state, but also by societal actors, specifically, ordinary middle-class Indians," as Ms. Sinha and Ms. Priyam wrote.

The frailties of the populist, personality-driven activism of the Anna Andolan have become clearer in hindsight. The same could be said about a similar brand of Leftist or neo-Gandhian activism, such as the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA) in Gujarat, centred around Medha Patkar. Championed by celebrities as diverse as Arundhati Roy and Aamir Khan, the anti-dam movement ultimately ended in failure. The scholar, Judith Whitehead, explained this failure to be a function of the NBA's disinterest in mobilising a wider political constituency among peasants and workers in rural Gujarat, and a narrow "ecological romanticism" which "tended to privilege urban middle class perspectives".

However, we have not quite entered into a post-civil society era, and there still exists a (albeit circumscribed) space for popular mobilisation. In Tamil Nadu, labour rights organisations, led by the Communist-leaning Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) compelled the M.K. Stalin government to stall the implementation of a new labour law. And, of course, the long-drawn farmers agitation succeeded in forcing the otherwise dour hand of the Modi government, demonstrating the continuing heft of these organisations in parts of northern India. Some of these groups have now given their support in favour of the protesting wrestlers.

Yet, we must remember, the activism of these organisations is also weighed down with inherent limitations. Even as the farmers' movement sought to cultivate "new solidarities across class, caste, gender, religion and regions" (Kumar 2022), many of them continue to be associated with the interests of landed "Jat" caste. Hence, the broad political support commanded by them in certain political contexts should not be seen as an automatic function of stable bonds of programmatic solidarity. The lower castes in Haryana, for example, might remember the experience of recurring anti-special economic zone protests, where farmer organisations have been critiqued for privileging the material interests of the Jat farmers and ignoring those of the landless workers.

Similarly, while certain forms of militant labour activism can succeed in getting significant concessions in Tamil Nadu, they are likely to be firmly suppressed in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. This is because labour activism, particularly of left-wing organisations, often requires the political umbrella of communist parties. These communist parties, which have largely been a part of government coalitions since the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-CPI(M) alliance of 1965. In Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, left-wing labour activism has been ruthlessly put down not just by the Congress but also by their erstwhile socialist/farmer allies. This regime continuity was immediately apparent in the Charan Singh government's fierce suppression of the 1970 Communist-led agitation of landless agricultural workers, perhaps the last such large-scale mobilisation of workers in Uttar Pradesh.

The state of the wrestlers' protests clarifies the need to look beyond the superficial, celebrity-dependent model of civil society activism. It is also a reminder that only a democratic process of building durable, programmatic solidarities can become truly capable of transcending the social ceiling of "segmental loyalties".

The Delhi ordinance is an unabashed power-grab

Mathew Idiculla

is a legal consultant and a visiting faculty at Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

On May 19 this year, the Union government promulgated an ordinance to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) Act, 1991 that effectively nullified the Supreme Court judgment of May 11 on the powers over bureaucratic appointments in Delhi. After an eight-year long protracted legal battle, a five-judge Constitution Bench led by the Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud had unanimously held that the elected government of Delhi had legislative and administrative powers over "services".

The ordinance removes Entry 41 (services) of the State List from the Delhi government's control and creates a National Capital Civil Service Authority, consisting of the Chief Minister, Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary-Home, to decide on service matters in Delhi. Decisions of the Authority will be made through majority voting, which means that two Union-appointed bureaucrats could overrule the Chief Minister. Further, the ordinance provides that if a disagreement arises between the Authority and the Lieutenant Governor (LG), the decision of the LG shall prevail. The ordinance raises multiple legal and political questions regarding federalism, democracy, bureaucratic accountability, executive law-making, and judicial review. Several Opposition parties, barring the Congress, have supported the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in its opposition to the ordinance. Congress leader Ajay Maken said that "cooperative federalism principles don't fit" Delhi since it is the "National Capital". In this context, it is important to examine how the ideas of federalism fit in unique contexts such as Delhi.

Asymmetric federalism and Delhi

The position of Delhi in India's federal constitutional scheme is not straightforward. The Supreme Court, in its May 11 verdict, had noted that the addition of Article 239AA in the Constitution accorded the National Capital Territory of Delhi (NCTD) a "*sui generis*" status.

The ordinance, which is an attack on federalism and democracy, erodes judicial independence, is an act of constitutional subterfuge, and destroys established norms on bureaucratic accountability

The Court held that there is no "homogeneous class" of Union Territories and States; rather, India's Constitution has several examples of special governance arrangements which treat federal units differently from each other. It noted that the special provisions for States under Article 371 are in the nature of "asymmetric federalism" made for "accommodating the differences and the specific requirements of regions".

Scholars of federalism have long argued that for countries with deep social cleavages along ethnic, linguistic, and cultural lines, an asymmetric model of federalism, which accommodates the interests of various social groups through territorial units, is desirable. India's federal system has been described as asymmetric due to the special status it accorded Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 (before its dilution) and special protections under Article 371, and 5th and 6th Schedule Areas.

What is striking about the Court's judgment is that it used the asymmetric federalism framework to clarify the position of the NCTD in India's federal scheme. It remarked that though NCTD is not a full-fledged State, since its Legislative Assembly is constitutionally entrusted to legislate upon subjects in the State and Concurrent Lists, the insertion of Article 239AA created a "asymmetric federal model" for the NCTD. So, while the NCTD remains a Union Territory, the "unique constitutional status conferred upon it makes it a federal entity".

While the invocation of asymmetric federalism for Delhi is interesting, the Court was a mute spectator when this idea was annihilated in Jammu and Kashmir. Nevertheless, an articulation of the underlying principles of federalism in this case is welcome. The Court noted that the principles of federalism and democracy are interlinked since the States' exercise of legislative power gives effect to people's aspirations and that federalism creates "dual manifestation of the public will" in which the priorities of the two sets of governments "are not just bound to be different, but are intended to be different". Such a clear expression of the federal principle punctures hollow exhortations of "cooperative federalism" that have been weaponised to centralise Indian politics.

The law and politics of federalism

The presidential ordinance is problematic at different levels. First, the government's swift and brazen act of undoing a Constitution Bench judgment does not augur well for judicial independence. While the legislature can alter the legal basis of a judgment, it cannot directly overrule it. Further, executive law-making through an ordinance, as the Supreme Court held in *D.C. Wadhwa* (1987), is only to "meet an extraordinary situation" and cannot be "perverted to serve political ends". Most crucially, adding an additional subject of exemption (services) to the existing exemptions (land, public order, and police) of Delhi's legislative power listed in Article 239AA, without amending the Constitution, is arguably an act of constitutional subterfuge. Finally, creating a civil services authority where bureaucrats can overrule an elected Chief Minister destroys long-established norms on bureaucratic accountability.

For all of these reasons, the ordinance is a direct assault on federalism and democracy. Such an unabashed power-grab by the Union government needs to be opposed by all who care for the future of India as a federal democracy. However, Opposition parties do not often take a position on federalism on first principles or articulate it as a normative idea. Hence, AAP cheered the dilution of Article 370, and now the Congress refuses to oppose this ordinance. This poses limits for federalism to act as a counter-hegemonic idea. As the foundations of India's constitutionalism are threatened, we need a new politics of federalism that reflects and articulates the underlying values of federalism consistently.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Train accident in Odisha

This is one of independent India's worst train accidents. It is shocking how despite technological upgrades, two express trains and a goods train were involved in a terrible accident. Solatium is not the solution and the truth must prevail in what should be a proper investigation. The accident has the potential to dent the confidence that rail passengers have in the system.

A.P. Thiruvadi,
Chennai

If there is one lesson from the accident, it is this: we need to restore a separate Railway Budget and have one day in Parliament devoted to highlighting the state of the Railways. I hope the government of the day considers this suggestion.

S. Venkatasubramanium,
Chennai

Accidents are caused. The local people deserve recognition for their active involvement in relief operations. A high-level inquiry should be ordered to find out the real cause. The railway authorities should also take effective steps at the administrative and technical levels to improve safety measures.

K. Sivankutty Nair,
Thiruvananthapuram

We are one of the largest rail networks but still struggle with poor maintenance of tracks, unmanned crossings, signalling errors, and growing traffic. In the present situation, technological upgradation, decongestion of tracks and investment planning will be necessary, which will also reassure passengers.

Ananya Rai,
Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh

Lakhs of people in a country like India depend on the railways. The fixation with high-speed trains and the Vande Bharat trains can go slow till the Railways are certain they can assure rail passengers that travel is safe. Development is important but safety is necessary.

Athira R.G.,
Coimbatore

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Spare the rod and change the law

Dinesh Thakur

was the whistleblower in the Ranbaxy case and author of 'The Truth Pill'

Prashant Reddy T.

is a lawyer and the author of 'The Truth Pill'

The Director General of Health Services (DGHS) issued yet another order on May 12 reiterating directions that doctors in Central government hospitals prescribe only generic medicines instead of branded drugs.

The driving force behind these office orders is the standard trope that doctors are in cahoots with the pharmaceutical industry wherein the doctor receives a kickback for each prescription of a particular company's drug. Thus, by forcing them to write only the generic names of medicines, the hope is that the pharmacist will provide the patient with the cheapest available generic drug and thus save them the cost of the more expensive branded drugs. This policy objective obviously rests on the assumption that the pharmacist is a benevolent individual who does not have his own incentives to sell the patient more expensive branded drugs. Such orders have been passed earlier and the most recent order does not hide its irritation at having to repeat previous orders; it threatens government doctors with unspecified "further action" for failing to comply with these directions.

Quality of generic medicines

But before threatening its doctors, perhaps the Directorate should conduct a survey among government doctors asking them to explain their reluctance to write prescriptions with just the generic names. It is no secret that many Indian doctors in both the public and private sector simply do not trust the quality of all generic medicines in the Indian market. They have a valid reason for this: India has lagged behind countries like the U.S. in creating the appropriate legal and scientific standards that provide guarantees to doctors on the interchangeability of generic medicines with each other and the innovator drug.

The U.S. created this environment of trust by mandating as far back as in 1977 that most, but not all, generic drugs be tested on human volunteers in order to measure the rate at which the drug is bioavailable; i.e. the rate at which the drug dissolves in the bloodstream. Such testing is required because generic manufacturers may use different excipients like binders, coating and punching machines which directly affect the ability of the drug to dissolve in the blood. If the dissolution profile of the generic drug is same or similar to that of the innovator drug over a time period, it is declared to be "bio-equivalent" and hence therapeutically interchangeable with the innovator drug.

India mandated such bio-equivalence testing only in 2017. Even then, the regulations were vague. But the far more worrying aspect from a public health perspective is the fact that a recommendation by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) to ensure that existing generic drugs, approved prior to 2017, also be tested for bio-equivalence, was ignored by the government. This means that a vast majority of drugs in the Indian market have never been tested for bio-equivalence. Hence, the government cannot provide doctors with a legal guarantee that all generic medicines in the Indian market are, in fact, interchangeable with the innovator drug.

If the government cannot provide such a legal guarantee, it should not be barring doctors against prescribing their preferred brands. Many doctors have developed faith in particular brands, not because they receive bribes but because patient feedback has taught them that other brands do not work as effectively.

Given the issues related to quality, it is not appropriate for the DGHS to force doctors to prescribe generic drugs

Stability testing

The lack of bio-equivalence testing is just one of the issues with generic medicines in India. The other massive problem is the issue of stability testing. The key challenge to manufacturing any drug is to ensure that it remains stable through a stressed supply chain in differing conditions of heat and humidity. An unstable drug will start decomposing, possibly reducing its efficacy. Sometimes a tablet will just crumble into powder when removed from its packaging. In other instances, the tablet will be visibly discoloured or if it is a liquid, particulate matter may be visible. Many of these problems can be checked if the law prescribed mandatory stability testing prior to providing marketing approval and also while the drug is in the market. This common requirement across the world became mandatory in India only in 2018, after the government managed to overcome immense opposition from the pharmaceutical industry. But once again, the new regulations not only lacked scientific rigour, but also did not apply retrospectively to generic drugs approved prior to 2018. This means that many generic medicines in the Indian market have not been subjected to mandatory stability testing. This could be an additional reason contributing to quality issues that undermines the trust of governmnent doctors in generic drugs.

Given these issues related to the quality of generic drugs, it is not appropriate for the DGHS to force doctors to prescribe drugs by generic names. Rather, the DGHS must work towards resolving the genuine concerns being raised by doctors. A starting point would be to ask for regulations which require pharma companies to identify on their packaging whether a drug has been tested for bio-equivalence and stability as required by the law. Building the confidence of doctors in generic medicine serves public interest better than threatening them with punitive action for failing to comply with directives on mandatory prescription of drugs by their generic names.

A model lab for secular governance?

While the Hindu Right is demoralised in Karnataka, it could bounce back soon

STATE OF PLAY

Shaikh Mujibur Rehman

The real challenge before the newly formed Siddaramaiah government is to transform Karnataka from the laboratory of Hindutva under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government to a laboratory of secular governance. This cannot be accomplished by routine governance. On May 24, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told the top brass of the State police force that "the police must not look at crimes through the prism of this or that religion." This is a good beginning and needs to be pursued in letter and spirit. The BJP's electoral defeat in the Assembly elections does not imply ideological de-capitulation of the Hindu Right, particularly when the party has retained its vote share. Therefore, the claim that the Hindu Right has been wiped out from the south is exaggerated. The Hindu Right is demoralised by defeat, but could bounce back at the next opportune moment. Patience and an ability to maneouvre are some of the virtues of India's Hindu Right.

In 2022, the Government of India banned the Popular Front of India (PFI). The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), founded by the PFI in 2009, had fielded 16 candidates in Karnataka, but failed to open its account. This speaks volumes about the voting behavior of Muslims. Most crucially, it sends an unambiguous message that the SDPI's political agenda has no resonance with Muslim voters. Likewise, the Asaduddin Owasi-led AIMIM drew a blank with only 0.02% votes. Nine Muslim MLAs of the 15 that the Congress fielded won, whereas the JD(S), which fielded 23 candidates, drew a blank. This is because Muslim voters consider the Congress and not the JD(S) a viable alternative to the BJP. The Karnataka results should further reassure those who expressed concern about the modest success of the AIMIM in the Bihar and Maharashtra Assembly elections. These results confirmed the secular voting behaviour of Muslim voters. Another interesting result is the defeat of Pramod Muthalik, chief of the Sri Ram Sene, which led the attack on women in Bengaluru bars in 2009, from the Karkal constituency. These results need to be seen as a vote against not just Hindutva or corrupt governance, but also against religious extremism.

During its campaign, the Congress was bold enough to announce in its manifesto that it would ban the Bajrang Dal. But the Bajrang Dal is a small player in the larger ideological campaign of Hindu Right organisations that have shaken the foundation of India's secular polity. The Hindu Right organisation that has given India two Prime Ministers – Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Narendra Modi – is the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and not the Bajrang Dal. At this juncture, it is worth recalling a speech delivered at Lucknow by Sardar Patel on January 6, 1948. He warned his peers in the Congress that their "power and authority" will not be able to crush the RSS. The present-day RSS is far more organised, larger in size, and more resourceful. Most importantly, it is a global organisation compared to what it was in 1948. This is the real challenge – and the government needs to think deeply about this.

Another fact is that the RSS does not have any magical powers to help the BJP win in every election. As an electoral force, it has limitations.

Karnataka has also seen violent killings of cadres of the Hindu Right and secular parties in recent years. In the context of this, outgoing Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai had threatened to introduce the "Yogi model" in Karnataka. One of his ministers even said that the State would go five steps beyond Uttar Pradesh. These are the signs of the violent side of an ideological power struggle among secular and Hindutva organisations. Priyank Kharge, a minister in the Siddaramaiah government, suggested withdrawal of the Bommai government's regressive policies. This is encouraging. But while rolling back policies may bring short-term relief, it will not foreclose the possibility of the return of such policies under future BJP governments. The dynamics of an ideological power struggle in an electoral democracy is such that what is rolled back today can be brought back tomorrow. But the 2023 results present some opening for the secular forces to plan for the revival of India's secular polity. Karnataka society needs healing. It cannot be accomplished by routine governance or Twitter activism.

Sheikh Mujibur Rehman teaches at Jamia Millia Central University, New Delhi

The effects of more than two decades of Erdogan's rule

The deterioration in political and civil liberties and the crippling economic crisis have polarised Turkey's voters

DATA POINT

Rebecca Rose Varghese

On May 28, Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was re-elected to power for five years, extending his rule into a third decade. He won 52.1% of the vote share, against Opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu's 47.9%. While the Central Anatolia voted for Mr. Erdogan, the Kurdish areas in the east, the better-developed coastal areas in the west and south, and most of the major cities voted for Mr. Kilicdaroglu. This geographical divide in voting patterns could be attributed to frustration regarding deteriorating secular values, the restrictions on political and civil liberties, and the biggest economic crisis that the country has faced in years.

Notably, when Mr. Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) first came into power, it was the promise of economic reforms that helped it gain the trust of the public. In 2003, when Mr. Erdogan became Turkey's 25th Prime Minister, the government focused on resolving Turkey's economic problems including raging inflation and unemployment. But 20 years later, the President had to overcome one of the biggest economic crisis that Turkey had witnessed in years to win the election. Many critics blamed the Turkish government for the dip in per capita GDP since 2013, the acceleration in inflation last year, and the currency depreciation since 2018.

Charts 1A, 1B, and 1C show how Turkey's economic state worsened in the past few years. While GDP per capita almost tripled between 2003 and 2013, it has fallen considerably in the last decade. Inflation accelerated from 19.6% in 2021 to 72.3% in 2022. The Turkish lira weakened by 27% against the dollar in the past year. **Chart 1D** shows that the employment-to-population ratio is less than 50%. **Chart 1E** shows the share of women in Parliament over the years.

Mr. Erdogan and the AKP rode the wave of the Islamist current against Turkey's secular order, set in place by Mustafa Kemal Ataturk and later held together by the military, in the 1990s. He later consolidated his power at the apex of a new sociopolitical order displacing the "secular-minded" elites. By gaining more power from the conservatives, Mr. Erdogan managed to silence his critics, including politicians and journalists. Political and press freedom became increasingly restricted. **Charts 1F and 1G** show Turkey's political and civil liberty index on a scale of 0 (worst) to 1 (best). Civil and political liberties, which had peaked in 2003 at 0.7, decreased to 0.33 and 0.25, respectively, by 2022.

Chart 1H shows government shutdowns of the Internet in Turkey. A score less than 1 indicates that the government shuts domestic access to the Internet extremely often. While the score was poor from 2000, it has worsened further in the last decade.

Chart 2A shows Turkey's Human Development Index (HDI) compared to other countries in West Asia. HDI is a measure of life expectancy, access to education, and standard of living. The chart shows HDI on a scale of 0 (worst) to 1 (best). While the HDI for Turkey has remained better compared to other West Asian countries, the same cannot be said of its human rights protection score (**Chart 2B**). This captures the extent to which citizens' physical integrity is protected from government killings, torture, political imprisonments, extrajudicial executions, mass killings and disappearances. Though Turkey's score has remained comparatively poor, it has further deteriorated since the 2010s.

While Mr. Erdogan managed to retain power, the growing resentment against his rule, which has been characterised as "authoritarian populism," was reflected in the increased vote shares for the Opposition.

Let's talk Turkey

The data for the charts has been collated from OurWorldinData, the World Bank, the UNDP's Human Development Reports and V-Dem (Varieties of Democracy) Institute of Sweden's University of Gothenberg

Chart 1: Each chart depicts Turkey's values/scores in various socio-political and economic indicators over the years. For instance, Turkey's GDP per capita in 2013 was $12,507.6. By 2021, it decreased to $9,661.2

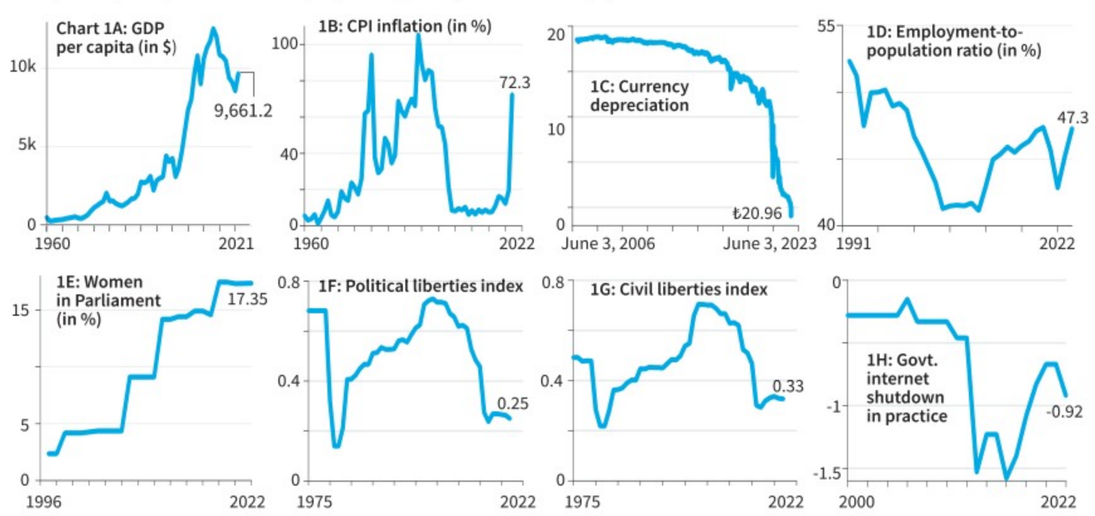
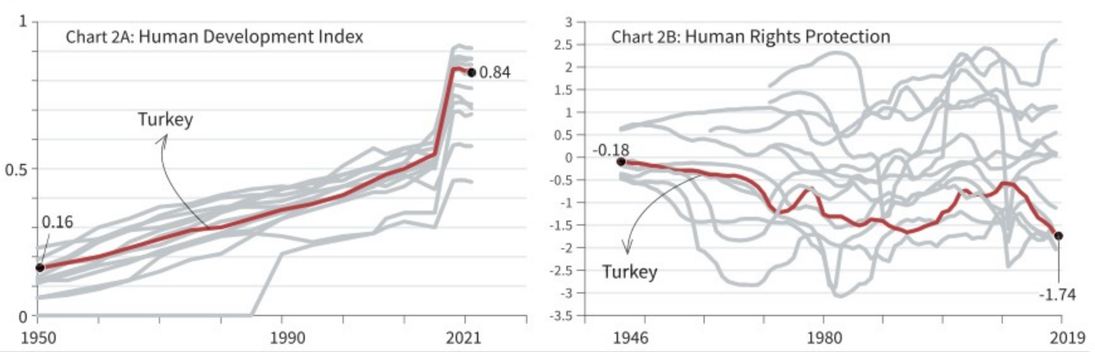


Chart 2: The chart shows the Human Development Index and Human Rights Protection index among West Asian countries (Bahrain, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, UAE and Yemen).



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 5, 1973

Compulsory library education in 250 schools proposed

Madras, June 4: Compulsory library education would be introduced from the next academic session for the sixth and ninth standard students in 250 high schools in the State as an experimental measure. Mr. V.B. Nedunchezian, Education Minister, said here to-day. If the scheme, already introduced in some City schools, proved successful, it would be progressively extended to other schools. Mr. Nedunchezian, who was declaring open the new building of the Connemara Public Library in Egmore, stressed the need for cultivating the reading habit particularly in children, by utilising the libraries for which the co-operation of parents and teachers was necessary. The Minister also released a bibliography of books published in the State during 1965. Mr. V. Thillainayagam, Director of Public Libraries, traced the growth of the Connemara Library since 1896 and said at present the library had on its shelves about 24 lakh volumes besides 6,000 periodicals and 230 newspapers. During 1972-73, a sum of Rs. 2.66 lakhs had been spent on the library which worked out to Rs. 1.91 per reader or 49 paise per volume. Dr. D. Ambrose, Chief Engineer, Public Works (Buildings) Department, explained the features of the Rs. 12.70-lakh new building. Mr. A.M. Sundararajan, Librarian, proposed a vote of thanks. The T-shaped three-storeyed building occupies 1,424 s. metres of plinth area, the total floor area being 4,158 sq. metres.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 5, 1923

Question of land rights

London, June 4: In the House of Commons today, questioned with regard to the recent decision made by the United States Supreme Court by which British Indians are debarred from becoming American citizens, Earl Winterton said that he understood that in some States of the United States, British Indians would no longer be entitled to acquire ownership or leases of land. The Indian Office had received no complaints directly, but His Majesty's representative in the United States had brought the matter to the notice of the Foreign Office. The precise effect of the decision, particularly with regard to Indians who had already acquired rights in land, had still to be considered.

From Page One

Railway Board alleges 'signalling interference'

A group of Home Ministry officials have already visited the accident site and held discussions with Railway officials. At a press conference, the Railway Board member for operations and business development, Jaya Verma Sinha, said that the possibility of sabotage has not been ruled out, insisting that the system cannot malfunction without manual interference.

Sandeep Mathur, Principal Executive Director of Signalling at the Railway Board, said the electronic interlocking signal system works on two information points: a signal to pass is given based on which direction the track is set, and whether the track is free of obstruction. "As far as the digital record of what happened on that night, the signals sent out were all okay and as expected, but clearly the accident happened and now it has to be determined where the failure took place," Ms. Sinha said.

The electronic interlocking signalling system is controlled remotely in most cases. However, the controls reside in the section office of the railway station where they are supervised by signal men, section control officers, and section control heads; the stationmaster is privy to the details.

A senior Railway official said, "Interlocking malfunction is a big thing. There could be two things: either it was a sabotage or it was a software or a hardware malfunction, that is if the switching of tracks [to the loop line] happened despite signal being given for main line. This means that the signal and switching were not in sync."

Ms. Sinha said the first point of contact after the accident was with the loco pilot of Coromandel Express. "He said that he had received the green signal for the main line and the train went on at top speed. The pilot is now in a critical condition in hospital."

She said all rescue work had been finished at the accident site and that restoration work on the tracks had begun.

The Railway Board appealed to the public to reach out to them on Central helpline number 139 for any information.

Goods train crosses ill-fated section

Later, the first train on the section started its journey around 10.40 pm on Sunday, 51 hours after the horrific crash. The train carrying coal is headed towards Rourkela Steel Plant from Visakhapatnam port and is running on the same track where the ill-fated Yeshwantpur-Howrah train met with the tragedy on Friday.

(With PTI inputs)

Odisha railway accident toll lowered to 275

"The Indian Railways had put the death toll as 288 and we had also circulated the same on Saturday," Odisha Chief Secretary Pradeep Kumar Jena told journalists. "Since [Saturday] night, the Balasore District Magistrate and all his officials have conducted a diligent recount of each dead body, by taking the bodies recovered from the track, the hospital and two makeshift assembly points into account. They have found that a few bodies have been reported twice. After weeding out those duplicates, the Collector has formally informed that the final death toll is 275, instead of 288, as of 10 a.m. [on Sunday]," he explained.

"The double count had taken place due to flurry of activity and a stressed environment. Out of 275 bodies, 88 have been identified and handed over to their relatives. Of the remaining 187 bodies, 170 have been shifted to Bhubaneswar," Mr. Jena said. While 1,175 injured people have been referred to different hospitals, 793 have been discharged so far.

Panel to probe ethnic violence in Manipur

It would also investigate whether adequate administrative measures had been taken to prevent and deal with the violence and the riots, and to consider such matters as may be found relevant in the course of the inquiry.

The inquiry by the Commission shall also be with regard to "complaints or allegations that may be made before the commission by any individual, or association, in such form and accompanied by such affidavits, as may be specified by the Commission", and the role of government officials as may be brought to its notice by the Government of Manipur.

"The Commission may, if it deems fit, make interim reports to the Central Government before the final deadline," the Commission's terms of reference added.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday appealed to the people of Manipur to lift blockades on the Imphal-Dimapur National Highway-2, a critical line for all supplies to reach Manipur's valley areas. Starting from Dimapur in Nagaland, the highway passes through Naga and Kuki hill districts in Manipur. Since Manipur does not have rail connectivity yet, the National Highway is the lifeline for transport of essential goods.

"My sincerest appeal to the people of Manipur is to lift the blockades at the Imphal-Dimapur, NH-2 Highway, so that food, medicines, Petrol/Diesel, and other necessary items can reach the people. I also request that Civil Society Organisations do the needful in bringing consensus. Together only we can restore normalcy in this beautiful state," Mr. Shah said in a tweet.

18% of 4,000 police arms looted in Manipur returned

Combing operation to recover arms begins tomorrow; new security grid for Manipur; buffer zones created between Kuki and Meitei settlements; Naga MLAs called to Delhi to meet Amit Shah

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Taking control: Security personnel carrying out a search in Manipur on Saturday. ANI

A month after Manipur was engulfed in ethnic violence, 18% of the more than 4,000 weapons looted from police armouries have been surrendered with the authorities, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

During his visit to the State from May 29 to June 1, Union Home Minister Amit Shah appealed to the offenders to surrender the weapons before the police. He said a combing operation would begin soon and strict action against them would follow.

The weapons were looted in two phases – when violence erupted on May 3, nearly 1,600 weapons were taken away and from May 27 to 28, ahead of Mr. Shah's visit, 2,557 were looted. Most weapons were looted from police camps and armouries in the valley. Other than sophisticated weapons such as assault rifles, grenades and mortar bombs were also looted. A senior government official said on condition of anonymity that most weapons were given away to groups belonging to the same community as those deployed in the police camps. In some cases, the weapons were taken away after huge mobs gheraoed police camps.

In all, 789 arms and 10,648 ammunition pieces were recovered till Sunday. After Mr. Shah's appeal, a total of 202 arms, 252 ammunition pieces and 92 bombs were recovered.

Kuldiep Singh, Manipur government's security adviser and chief of the newly created inter-agency unified command, told *The Hindu* that politicians in several areas had sought more time to convince the people to surrender the weapons.

More time sought

"The crackdown was to begin last week, but the political leaders have sought more time. We have decided to give them three more days following which a combing operation will follow from June 6," Mr. Singh said. He added that the Kuki groups that are in a Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the government were being monitored. "Their camps are under watch, some parts of weapons were found missing," Mr. Singh said.

To control the ethnic violence between the Meitei and the Kuki communities, the unified command has created a security grid for the valley and the hills. Buffer zones have been created between the valley, where Meiteis live, and in the hills, where Kukis live, to stop any kind of clash or arson. "The Army and the Assam Rifles are patrolling the hills, while the Central Armed Police Force has been deployed in the buffer zones – the junction where the hills and valley meet. Further down this layer, the patrolling is being done by the local police," Mr. Singh said.

Following a demand by Kuki MLAs in the Manipur Assembly, which includes seven members from the BJP, for a separate administration, the Home Minister has called 10 Naga MLAs for a meeting in New Delhi this week. The Naga legislators, also tribals and from the hills, have distanced themselves from the demand of the Kukis.

'Disarm Meiteis only after cancelling pact with Kuki groups'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

People from the Meitei community protesting in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Amid the ongoing ethnic conflict in Manipur, hundreds of people from Meitei organisations in New Delhi held a demonstration on Sunday, stressing that youth belonging to the community in the north-eastern State should not be disarmed unless the government cancelled the Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact signed with Kuki insurgent groups in 2008.

The Meitei groups also demanded that the process for drawing up the National Register of Citizens (NRC) in the State had become imperative now more than ever.

The Meitei groups had gathered under the banner of the Manipur Coordination Committee (Delhi).

'Civil war'

"We wanted to come together in solidarity and raise our demands; the arms won't be used to harm common people, but sadly, we need them for protection, houses are still being burnt. A civil war is occurring, however, the government is not looking into such substantial problems and is concise about the reservation issue," said Professor Bhagat Oinam, who teaches at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Since the violence began, the Kuki-Zomi groups have maintained that a separate administration for the tribes in the hill areas was the only solution to this conflict.

On the other hand, Meitei leaders in the State and outside have maintained that the violence was allegedly being perpetrated by the Kuki militant groups. They also alleged that the violence was being orchestrated by "poppy cultivating drug lords", who were against the State government's policies to clear forest land.

In addition to calling for the NRC to be conducted as soon as possible to identify all foreigners who entered Manipur illegally after 1951, the Meitei groups on Sunday demanded immediate peace, protection of all religious places (Hindu, Sanamahi, and Christian), and "constitutional protection" for its people in the State. The groups also called for an end to poppy cultivation, "narco terrorism", and illegal immigration into the State.

Refugee influx into Mizoram raises security issue in State

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In the past couple of years, Mizoram has seen an influx of refugees from Myanmar and recently from Bangladesh and now Manipur, adding to the internal security situation there. There is a variation in numbers from Myanmar given by the State government and security forces, while there are over 8,000 from Manipur and over 900 people from Bangladesh which officials said was expected to go up further. Officials on the ground say that the influx from Bangladesh is particularly worrying with potential for smuggling of narcotics and weapons opening a new front for security forces to deal with.

As per the State government, there are around 40,000 Myanmar nationals who have crossed into the border districts of Mizoram since the military takeover. Of them, about 8,000 to 10,000 had gone back and about 30,000 had been registered and issued identity cards as refugees, an official said.

However, according to assessments by security forces on the ground, there are over 18,000 Myanmar nationals as 8,000 to 10,000 have returned, which is accepted by sources in the security establishment. The State government had set up camps for them, however, a majority of them were not staying in there, having moved out to stay with relatives or looking for work, officials said.

The State government has stated that anyone coming in from Myanmar would be let in, with the Centre directing that they should be duly registered.

Narcotics smuggling

Three Assam Rifles Battalions deployed in border guarding duties along the India-Myanmar Border (IMB) were also monitoring the situation, a source in the security establishment said.

A particular concern on the IMB is smuggling, especially of narcotics the seizures of which have been growing year on year. For instance, this year, the total worth of narcotics seized in Mizoram is ₹603.43 crore, up from ₹355 crore in 2022.

In February 2022, Myanmar's military junta imposed martial law across Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, and Mon States, as well as in Yangon and Mandalay regions and also air strikes recently very close to the IMB. That has added to tensions in areas close to the border. The security situation along the IMB in Mizoram was stable, the source said.

Given the tough terrain in south Mizoram, there was very little local produce and everything came in from the north. With refugees coming in, this was adding to shortage of resources and could lead to unrest in the local population, the official stated.

"South Mizoram has very thick jungles and there are no regular tracks. So someone is guiding them which could subsequently be used for smuggling of arms and narcotics," one official said.

Assam Rifles had projected security issues, but there had been no action in that direction, officials added.

Crystallising apprehensions, on March 10 the Lunglei Battalion of Headquarter 23 Sector Assam Rifles apprehended two cadres of the KCNA, one of them a high ranking cadre, at Hmunnuam village of Lawngtalai district.

U.S. Defence Secretary Austin arrives in India

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin arrived in India on Sunday on a two-day visit to explore ways to further strengthen bilateral defence cooperation, especially in areas of transfer of critical technologies for co-development of military hardware.

Mr. Austin's trip comes over two weeks ahead of PM Narendra Modi's state visit to Washington during which the two sides are expected to unveil initiatives to expand the strategic partnership.

"I am returning to India to meet with key leaders for discussions about strengthening our Major Defence Partnership. Together, we are advancing a shared vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific," the Secretary tweeted.

Opposition meet likely to be postponed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A joint Opposition meeting scheduled for June 12 is likely to be postponed, sources said.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and former chief Rahul Gandhi had informed Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar their inability to participate due to "scheduling issues". The party said it will send a representative in their place. Other Opposition leaders had objected to this and said the first meeting cannot be held in the absence of the top leadership of each party.

Mehbooba Mufti receives passport after 3 years

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

PDP president and former Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti has been issued a passport with 10-year validity, sources said here on Sunday.

After a prolonged legal battle in the Delhi High Court, the passport was delivered to Ms. Mufti. Her travel document expired in 2019 and since then she had been seeking its renewal.

It came barely two days ahead of a hearing in Jammu and Kashmir High Court where Ms. Mufti's daughter Iltija's plea challenging the decision of the passport office to give her a country-specific passport is to come up.

The passport given to Ms. Mufti, who was the last Chief Minister of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir State before it was bifurcated in 2019, is valid from June 1, 2023, till May 31, 2033.

A fight between two ideologies on in India, just like the U.S.: Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi

Like in the U.S., India too is witnessing a fight between different ideologies and the people of India would defeat the BJP's "hate-filled ideology" in the forthcoming elections, including the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said at an event organised by the Indian Overseas Congress in New York on Saturday.

New York City Mayor Eric Adams also attended the event that drew large number of Congress supporters, officials, and members of the Indian community.

Mr. Gandhi said the fight in India was similar to the one in the U.S. and was about two different and competing visions. "One vision which is our vision – accepts everybody, embraces everybody, respects everybody, loves everybody, and wants everybody to be a part of the future of our country regardless of their religion, their community, their caste, their language. We are fighting our friends in the BJP... they have a very limited view of our country," he said.

Talking about the Karnataka election, he said the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi tried to polarise the election but it did not work as the election was about inflation, unemployment and corruption.

Mr. Gandhi said the Congress would also win in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, where elections are slated later this year.

Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan activist Manoj Misra dies

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Environmental activist and former Indian Forest Service officer Manoj Misra breathed his last at 12.40 p.m. on Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of battles fought to safeguard precious forests and rivers. He was 68. Mr. Misra, who tested positive for COVID-19 on April 8, was undergoing treatment since April 10.

Born in Mathura in Uttar Pradesh he pursued his education from Pant Nagar University in Uttarakhand and Allahabad University.

In 1979, he joined the Indian Forest Service. He served in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh before opting for voluntary retirement in 2001. In 2007, he founded the *Yamuna Jiye Abhiyan*. While pollution in the Yamuna had become a national concern in 1994, it was Mr. Misra's leadership that brought the river into the spotlight.

Railway official flagged flaw in signalling system in Feb.

The official, in a letter to higher authorities, called for urgent corrective measures, pointing to how a train after receiving the green signal to pass through a particular line got into the adjacent line

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

A senior Railways official in February flagged a fault in the signalling system, which is now suspected to be the cause of the accident involving two express trains and a goods train in Balasore district of Odisha on June 2.

The official had precisely pointed to the issue of how a train after receiving the green signal to take a particular line got into the adjacent line.

Pointing out that a major disaster was averted by the alert loco pilot in South Western Railway (SWR), the official said the "incident indicates that there are serious flaws in the system, where the route of dispatch gets altered after a train starts on signal with correct appearance of route in the stationmaster's panel. This contravenes the essence and basic principles of interlocking".

Principal Chief Operations Manager Hari Shankar Verma, in a letter to the Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunications Engineer, referred to the "serious unsafe incident" that occurred at the Hosadurga Road station on the Birur-Chikjajur section of the Mysore Division on February 8. He marked copies of his letter to the General Manager of the SWR and others.

Train wreck: Workers inspecting the damaged carriages at the accident site in Odisha on Sunday. AFP

Collision averted

He said that a major accident had been averted the very next day due to the alertness of the loco pilot of train number 12649 Sampark Kranti Express. Noticing that the signal had been cleared for passing in one line but the path was altered to another track where a goods train was stationed, the loco pilot brought the train to a halt, averting a head-on collision.

Mr. Verma said the signal maintainer had not served a disconnection memo to the stationmaster to seek his permission to repair a signal failure. Had he done so, the stationmaster would have followed the protocol for the safe movement of trains. "The present incident must be viewed seriously and immediate corrective actions are required to rectify the system faults and sensitising the staff against shortcuts leading to major accidents," he said.

The official said that if the signal maintenance system was not monitored and corrected immediately, it would result in serious accidents. The preliminary investigation report in the devastating three-way accident in Balasore says it was caused by a faulty signalling system.

A senior SWR official said that the observations of Mr. Verma led to an internal inquiry and two staff responsible for maintenance of the signalling equipment were subjected to disciplinary action for not following the norms. Besides, more than 2,200 frontline staff engaged in repair and maintenance of signalling equipment were counselled for a month to follow the established protocols and not to adopt "shortcuts", the official said.

(With inputs from R. Krishna Kumar in Mysuru)

Railways yet to fix coupler issue that leads to coaches detaching from engine

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

The detachment of the coupler results in the dangerous situation of the rake being left disconnected and moving

A major safety issue of locomotives getting detached from the rakes due to a coupling failure has been remaining unattended by the Railways for more than three years now despite instructions to rectify it, sources said on Sunday.

The problem was flagged at a high-level meeting convened by the Chairman, Railway Board and Chief Executive Officer (CRB/CEO) a fortnight ago. Addressing senior officials representing Zonal Railways across the network, the Director-General (Safety), Railway Board, referred to the detachment of coaches with Dellner coupler from the 12497 Shan-e-Punjab Express in March.

'Train parting'

The express train was proceeding to Amritsar when some coaches suddenly got detached from the locomotive.

It triggered panic among hundreds of passengers while some railway staff on board the train managed to bring it to a halt. No passenger was injured.

The detachment of the coupler connecting coaches with the locomotive results in the dangerous situation of the rake being left disconnected and moving on the track.

Hence, authorities took up the matter with the Research Designs and Standards Organisation, which is the Railways' research arm, for rectification of the defect, the sources said.

At the meeting held recently, the Director-General (Safety) expressed concern that the modification suggested by the RDSO to the Dellner coupler should have been completed in 2020 but had not progressed sufficiently leading to "train parting".

'Ensure compliance'

The General Managers of all Zonal Railways were instructed to identify the unmodified Dellner couplers and get them rectified on a war footing.

The modification involved fixing an additional pin in the coupler of each coach to ensure they do not get uncoupled during sudden braking of the train and jerks.

The zonal authorities were also directed to erect fences where derailments occurred due to cattle run-over issue, the sources said.

Wrong practices

Senior railway officials had deliberated how instances of 'Signal Passed At Danger' were getting reported despite large-scale counselling of loco pilots. The CRB/CEO had said "right enginemanship" was required to be followed by loco pilots and wrong practices had to be rectified at the earliest.

The slow progress of safety-related work such as elimination of manned level crossings, provision of fire and smoke detection system in coaches and installation of smoke detection and suppression system in pantry cars had also come up for discussion, the sources said.

Don't politicise rail accident, BJP tells Opposition

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Sunday asked Opposition parties to "not politicise" the Balasore accident, and said the track record of the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government's Railway Ministers was "nothing short of a disaster".

BJP IT head Amit Malviya shared on Twitter what he said were the details of accidents under previous Ministers, and added that they were the ones demanding the resignation of the "most qualified" Railway Minister. "Stop politicising the unfortunate Balasore tragedy because track record of Railway Ministers, under the UPA, to put it mildly, was nothing short of disaster. Let us focus on relief and rescue operation and putting life and rail back on track, at the earliest," he said.

Under Mamata Banerjee as Railway Minister, 1,451 people died in 54 cases of collisions and 839 incidents of train derailments, he said. The death toll was 1,159 when Lalu Prasad was the Railway Minister, while the corresponding figure for Nitish Kumar was 1,527, Mr. Malviya said.

Cong. says Modi govt. 'prioritised' publicity over rail safety, seeks Vaishnaw's resignation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Party has sent a team to the accident site for an assessment of the ground situation

After holding off questions on the Balasore train accident for a day, the Congress on Sunday demanded the resignation of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and asked if the Narendra Modi government "prioritised" publicity of the Vande Bharat trains over rail safety.

The party alleged that the Minister's "PR gimmicks" overshadowed the "serious deficiencies, criminal negligence and complete disregard for safety and security of Indian Railways".

Separately, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge sent a two-member team, headed by Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who had served as a Minister of State for Railways, to the accident site for an assessment of the situation on the ground.

Addressing a press conference, Rajya Sabha member Shaktisinh Gohil and the party's publicity and media department head, Pawan Khera, said that Mr. Modi should accept part of the responsibility of the "mess" that his government had created in the Railways. The Odisha tragedy was a "man-made devastation caused by utter negligence, serious lapses in the system, incompetence, and a narcissistic sense of know-it-all attitude of the Modi government", they said.

Referring to Mr. Modi's statement that the guilty would be punished, Mr. Khera said it should begin with the Railway Minister.

"Unequivocally and unambiguously we demand the resignation of Mr. Vaishnaw. Nothing short of it," he said. "PM Modi himself is responsible for a green-flagging spree of Vande Bharat Express trains. He himself is responsible for creating this 'all is well' facade in the Indian Railways, even as crucial, sensitive, and critical infrastructure of the Indian Railways languishes in neglect," Mr. Gohil and Mr. Khera said in their statement. "Despite multiple warnings by the CAG, Parliamentary Standing Committees, and experts, why did the Modi government not spend on sprucing up Railway Safety? Who is responsible for the deadliest rail tragedy in Independent India," they asked.

Anti-collision system

The leaders also questioned the government on the implementation of the much-hyped Kavach anti-collision system nationwide, filling three lakh-plus vacancies in the Railways and the need to put more funds in the Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh.

Party general secretary Randeep Surjewala said that on February 9, the Chief Operating Manager of South Western Railway had written on the failure of signalling system by pointing out "serious flaws in the system where the route of dispatch gets altered after a train starts on signals with correct appearance of route in the SMS panel. This contravenes the essence and basic principles of interlocking".

"He also warned that if the signal maintenance system was not monitored and corrected immediately, it could lead to 're-occurrence and serious accidents'. Why was Rail Minister and Railway Ministry immune or ignorant or negligent," he asked.

Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said, "Who is responsible for ignoring CAG and Parliamentary Standing Committee reports on rail safety?"

Desperate search

Painful ordeal: Relatives searching for their family members among the photographs of deceased people on the NOCCI campus in Balasore district of Odisha. BISWARANJAN ROUT

Misplaced priorities led to accident: Venugopal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

K. C. Venugopal, Rajya Sabha MP and Congress general secretary (organisation) on Sunday said the Balasore train tragedy was a man-made disaster which took place because of the complete "incompetence and misplaced priorities" of the Union government.

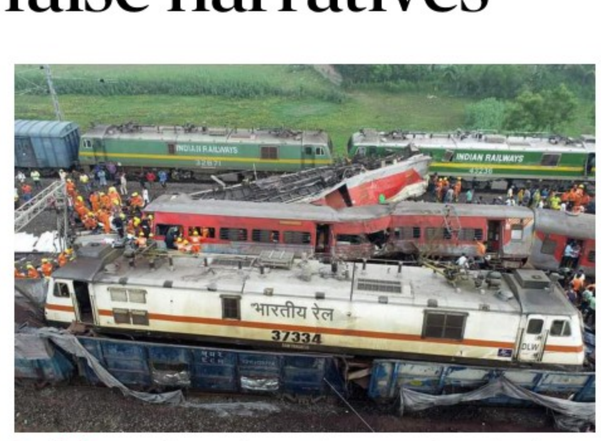
"The Prime Minister must take responsibility for this failure. The resignation of the Union Railway Minister is an inevitability," Mr. Venugopal said in a tweet.

He said the accident took place because the "Modi government failed to undertake the necessary safety and maintenance measures". "It ignored multiple prior warnings about track and signal failures," he added.

"The government should be ashamed of what has transpired and the Prime Minister must answer to the entire nation for letting this happen under his watch," he said.

Injured loco pilots battle pain and false narratives

Maitri Porecha
BHUBANESWAR



Deadly impact: A locomotive atop the wagons of a goods train at the accident spot in Balasore district of Odisha. PTI

Hazari Behera, 36, assistant loco pilot of Coromandel Express, escaped from the jaws of death when the train collided with a freight train in Balasore district of Odisha on Friday.

Currently admitted in the privately-run AMRI Hospital in Bhubaneswar, Mr. Behera is one of the more than a thousand injured who have received care in 21 health facilities across Odisha.

The pilot's family was distressed that the local media has been running fake news about his alleged death.

"Media doesn't realise the toll that such false reports can take on the family of the injured. Especially when my husband is still weak and unable to sit straight," Mr. Behera's wife told *The Hindu*. He has a fracture in his left leg and multiple abrasions; though in a conscious state, he is weak and disoriented.

His colleague, loco pilot G.N. Mohanty, is in a critical state in the intensive care unit of the same hospital.

Mr. Behera's family pleaded with the media to respect their privacy, especially given that a few of the injured have allegedly blamed the crew for the collision.

A senior railway official told *The Hindu* that a loco pilot's duties involve starting, stopping and accelerating the train. There is no way that at a high speed of 128 kilometres per hour, that too at night, the loco pilot would have noticed that the train was going to collide with a goods train, especially when he had received the green signal to proceed on the main line," the official said.

Of the 275 bodies that were removed from the accident site, nearly 140 lay in the mortuaries of different health facilities in Bhubaneswar, with at least 114 at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in the city. "We are conducting DNA sampling of each body and then undertaking a process of embalming to later hand them over to the relatives. Our doctors are involved in this process around the clock," AIIMS Director Ashutosh Biswas told *The Hindu*.

How can figures of accident casualties change, asks Mamata

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Mamata Banerjee

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday continued her tirade against the Centre over the railway accident in Odisha.

Questioning the death figures given by the Centre, Ms. Banerjee said 62 deceased were identified as citizens of West Bengal. She said 182 were missing from West Bengal, and asked how could the figures of casualties change.

"There was no coordination and complete negligence. The government should have apologised for the accident. I apologise to the people on their behalf," Ms. Banerjee said.

The former Railway Minister asked why the Railway Budget was merged with the Union Budget, and raised questions on non-installation of anti-collision devices on the trains that met with the accident.

On Saturday, Ms. Banerjee had visited the accident site and had raised these issues in the presence of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

"I did not want to say something unpleasant. I did not want to attack anyone," Ms. Banerjee said, adding that the BJP supporters had raised party slogans directed at her when she reached the accident site.

She announced ₹5 lakh compensation to the kin of each deceased and ₹50,000 to the injured. She said all residents of the State who were travelling by the trains that met with the accident would be given ₹10,000 and ₹2,000 per month for three months.

Ms. Banerjee said that since the Centre had brought the MGNREGS to a halt in the State, people were forced to go out of the State looking for work. She said ₹7,000 crore under the scheme had not been released by the Centre.

Many of those who died in the accident are migrant workers who were on their way to southern States for work. Among the deceased were three brothers Nishikanta, Dibakar and Haran Gyne from Basanti in South 24 Parganas who were on their way to Andhra Pradesh for work.

Suvendu's charge

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari visited the accident site and met the injured passengers. Mr. Adhikari was accompanied by BJP MLAs from West Bengal and Balasore BJP MP Pratap Sarangi.

Mr. Adhikari said Ms. Banerjee was indulging in politics over the issue as if the country was going to the Lok Sabha polls the very next day. The Trinamool leadership was "indulging in politics over bodies like vultures", he added.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE / CORRIGENDUM-A
No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-03(A)/23-24 Dt:02.06.2023
"Civil work for lift@ Admin bldg, Keepakam" (T/C-23-011, Est. cost ₹ 20.29 Lakhs); "Security track @ Pallavaram, Chennai" (T/C-23-013, Est. cost ₹ 5.90 Lakhs); "Fencing works @ PSOM-XL & Arresting water leakage @ FLP" (T/C-23-014, Est. cost ₹16.36 Lakhs). Sale period extended up to 16.06.2023. Interested tenderers may visit www.isro.gov.in or www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

INBRIEF

Bridge being built at ₹1,716 cr. over Ganga in Bihar collapses

A bridge over the Ganga in Bhagalpur district of Bihar, being built at a cost of ₹1,716 crore, collapsed on Sunday. Though eyewitnesses said many men were working on the bridge when the incident happened, no casualties have been reported. It is the second time that the four-lane bridge connecting Sultanganj in Bhagalpur to Aguwani in Khagaria district has collapsed during its construction. Last year, the structure had collapsed in strong wind and rain. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ordered an investigation, and said strict action will be taken against people responsible for the collpase. Mr. Kumar had laid the the foundation stone for the bridge in 2014.

'G-20 Presidency lays stress on medical countermeasures'

India's G-20 Presidency is working towards building consensus for an end-to-end Global Medical Countermeasure ecosystem, following a network-to-network approach, and leveraging existing global and regional initiatives, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar said during her address at the 3rd Health Working Group meeting in Hyderabad on Sunday. Dr. Pawar also highlighted the need for availability of safe, effective, and quality medical countermeasures. Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan noted the need for 'Health for All', and said it was an important agenda outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Adityanath praises Modi at 'Tiffin Pe Charcha' in U.P.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday participated in the 'Tiffin Pe Charcha' initiative of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) held under its *Maha Sampark Abhiyan* to mark nine years of the Modi government. Addressing senior party workers in Gorakhpur, Mr. Adityanath said India's prestige had been elevated across the globe due to the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. After its 'Chai Pe Charcha' initiative, the BJP in Uttar Pradesh started the 'Tiffin Pe Charcha' programme recently, where the party leaders and workers bring their own tiffins and eat the meal together.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind seeks ban on Hindi film *Ajmer-92*

The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has demanded a ban on the Hindi film *Ajmer-92*, due for release next month, alleging that it targets a particular minority community. The film is reportedly based on the criminal assault on teenage girls in Ajmer more than 30 years ago. "A movie made to defame the dargah Ajmer Sharif should be banned immediately. Instead of associating criminal incidents with a religion, there is a need for united action against crimes," the Jamiat's president, Maulana Mahmood Madani, said. Mr. Madani also expressed his disappointment over repeated attempts by Hindi filmmakers to project a particular community in a negative light.

Arunachal scraps 44 hydel deals with private players

The developers did not show interest in executing the projects, says Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein; the withdrawn projects will be handed over to Central PSUs, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Arunachal Pradesh government has scrapped 44 hydroelectric power deals with private developers who did not show interest in executing them.

The withdrawn projects, with a total installed capacity of 32,415 megawatts, will be handed over to Central PSUs through fresh agreements, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein said.

The State had signed 153 deals with independent power producers and various CPSUs for hydropower projects. FILE PHOTO

The State government had signed 153 deals with various CPSUs and independent power producers for hydropower projects, with a combined capacity of 46,943 MW. "Many projects did not proceed beyond the allotment stage for various reasons. We terminated the agreements for 44 such projects as the private developers did not show any interest to execute despite several notices served," Mr. Mein said.

Fresh agreements

Fresh agreements for nine of the 44 projects, with an installed capacity of 1,300 MW, have already been signed. The deals for the rest will be processed soon, Mr. Mein said.

He said the Centre had prepared an indicative list of 29 projects that were analysed and evaluated by the CPSUs such as the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation and Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Ltd.

Paving the way

Smooth climb: Border Roads Organisation workers restore the Amarnath Yatra tracks at Pahalgam in Anantnag on Saturday. ANI

Veteran Hindi and Marathi film actor Sulochana dies at 94

Anuj Kumar
NEW DELHI

Sulochana Latkar

A veteran actor and important link with the golden age of Hindi and Marathi cinema, Sulochana Latkar, passed away in Mumbai on Sunday at 94 from age-related complications.

Hailing from Kolhapur, Sulochana made a name for herself as a leading heroine in Marathi films before moving to Bombay cinema where she essayed various shades of motherly roles in Hindi cinema for almost four decades. From Dev Anand and Sunil Dutt to Amitabh Bachchan and Rajesh Khanna to Jackie Shroff, she played mother to several generations of stars.

Sulochana started her career with Bhalji Pendharkar's *Sasurrvas* (1946). A young Sulochana joined his famous Jaiprabha Studios on a monthly salary and learned the intricacies of the craft under the watch of the legendary Marathi filmmaker.

Gradually, she became a big name in the Marathi film industry, featuring in hits such as *Vahinichya Bangdya* (1953) and *Sangtye Aika* (1959). She is still remembered for playing Jijabai, mother of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in *Maratha Tituka Melvava* (1964).

In Hindi films, initially, she was offered remakes of Marathi films such as *Aurat Teri Yahi Kahaani* and mythologicals and is remembered for her performance in *Ab Dilli Dur Nahin* where she worked with Motilal.

A significant shift in her career came when Bimal Roy asked her to play Nutan's mother in *Sujata* (1960).

The success of the film meant that the actor became typecast in motherly roles. With *Dil Deke Dekho* and *Do Ustad* which were released a year before *Sujata*, she enhanced her image as the doting mother, caring spouse, and sister-in-law and went on to do memorable roles in *Aaye Din Bahaar Ke*, *Majboor*, *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar* and *Kati Patang*.

She did try variations like playing Kaikayi in *Sampoorna Ramayan* (1961) and the desolate wife of a greedy man played by Ashok Kumar in *Dil Daulat Duniya*.

A close confidante of Geeta Bali and Lata Mangeshkar, the Padma Shri awardee was untouched by success.

Along with Nirupa Roy, Sulochana will be remembered for epitomising a selfless mother and devoted spouse, which became central to Hindi film narratives in the 1960s and 70s.

'Quick-win' reforms can spur economy this year: CII chief

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president R. Dinesh believes there is scope for some 'quick-win' reforms amid this election year to spur the economy, like expanding global trade ties and facilitating investments from pension funds and insurers, while bigger changes like GST rationalisation and fixing archaic factor market laws may have to wait till beyond 2024.

Stressing that several industry segments, including steel, cement, chemicals, as well as services like hotels and aviation, are seeing high-capacity utilisation rates, Mr. Dinesh asserted that private sector will "move from promise to delivery" this year, in an interview with *The Hindu*.

He also highlighted the need for Indian businesses to be able to tap the necessary growth capital more easily from domestic banks as well as overseas investors.

"While steel and cement capacities are being robustly utilised due to infrastructure investments, for me a very positive sign is the machinery sector, which is already seeing around 80% utilisation. Machinery orders means that it is going into further productive investments by other companies," Mr. Dinesh said.

Pointing out that banks are unable to provide pure 'equity' funding for fresh

R. Dinesh

investments or acquisitions, Mr. Dinesh said "Indian corporates have to invariably go overseas for funding", on which the central bank places some restrictions.

"We understand why the Reserve Bank of India [RBI] regulations were put in place, but I think there's a new India... Also, pension and insurance funds still have restrictions on how much they can invest in private bonds and government securities, there's room to reform this as globally, retirement funds are the largest investors in equity and capital markets," he emphasised.

"There are such reforms which are quick wins, where we can see delivery happening this year... We have also mentioned factor market reforms and a three-rate GST structure, inclusive of petroleum, *et al* [in our wishlist] as we want this to be part of the thought process."

'Review stance'

Underlining the need to expand India's global trade engagement through free trade agreements (FTAs) and export promotion efforts, the CII chief indicated the need for India to review its stance on import tariffs to attract more investments and integrate with global value chains.

"Our view has been always that industry will survive in the long run only if you are competitive globally. In the short term, you may have issues that you have to manage with certain concessions. Therefore, if you want to be part of global value and supply chains, and want more overseas investment, then [to] say we will be not open to dealing with the rest of the world, there is no way. It's a conflicting thought process," Mr. Dinesh explained.

Ahead of the RBI's monetary policy review this week, the CII president said industry is hopeful that interest rates will remain unchanged and the stance shifts from 'hawkish' to 'neutral'. This would help perceptions so that people who are investing, believe that "Okay, if I invest now, in future, I may see lower interest rates, but I don't know for sure till the inflation data comes".

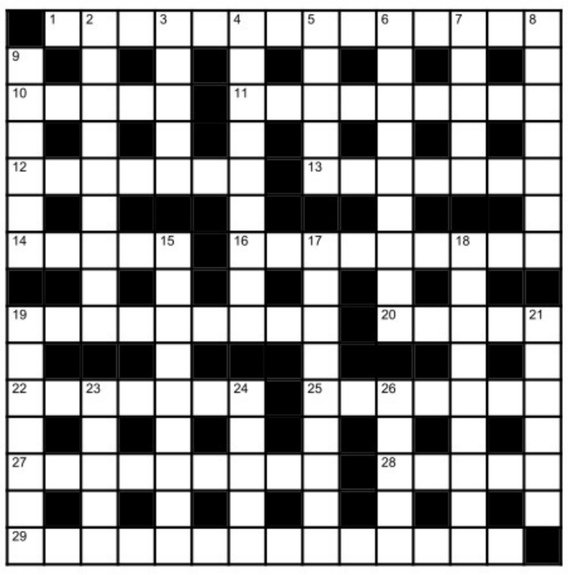
"We hope that if things continue like this [inflation remains around 4.5%] till October, then after that or December, we could look at asking for a rate reduction. We are not trying to push for it [now] because we think the time is not right for it," Mr. Dinesh explained.

TH CROSSWORD + 13883

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Passing a weekend in China, gathered all over the place (6,3,5)
10 Rolls over reel (5)
11 Place to accommodate a say, ISS (9)
12 Cross check from East German city (7)
13 Hazy at the borders, a painter finds clear sky (7)
14 Finished getting central clearance for a flying machine (5)
16 Article, violently racist, it's attention seeking (9)
19 Perhaps a main constituent in cheese, it keeps the food warm (4-5)
20 Ending with a friendly chat, at sea on a boat (5)
22 Mortal danger -"getting old," one whimpered (7)
25 Cross, finally get cross (7)
27 Some stars dine in plush resort (9)
28 West perhaps getting in state (5)
29 A sudden change in membrane potential, operations laid out (14)

Down

2 All the more reason for ratio to vary before one (1,8)
3 Did nothing but place bomb all around - extremely distasteful (5)
4 Fuel storage tank - some allowed through gate on the right (9)
5 Problem with yank? (5)
6 Heroism, everything allowed in a metal frame (9)
7 Proof of the presence of an alkali, Bismuth hydroxide (5)
8 Openings for stop watches outside... (7)
9 ...therefore inside mobile media device there are small creatures (6)
15 Half of them are crazy, eating hard cheese (9)
17 Cricket team regularly seeks something to eat (9)
18 Mixing gin and tonic, only in disguise? (9)
19 Win hearts with father's capital (7)
21 Cleared the decks as this oddly went kaput (6)
23 Neat edge of flowering plant (5)
24 Money, money raised with interest (5)
26 Clock up and send (5)

SUDOKU

				4		8		
								1
	1		9			3	2	6
		7	6				9	
		6	4		3	2		
	8				2	4		
9	6	8			4		5	
7								
		3		5				

No.SS5820 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

R	E	N	E	W	A	L		I	N	C	U	B	U	S
E		A		R		A		N		R		R		E
L	O	U	S	E		I	N	C	L	E	M	E	N	T
I		S		S		D		A		A		S		T
E	Y	E	S	T	R	A	I	N		M	I	T	R	E
D		A				S				S				E
	S	N	U	B		I	N	C	H	O	A	T	E	
		T		A		D		A		D		A		
	E	S	U	R	I	E	N	T		A	V	I	D	
C				K				A			W		S	
O	C	H	R	E		L	A	M	E	B	R	A	I	N
R		E		E		I		O		A		N		A
P	A	R	I	P	A	S	S	U		C	R	E	E	P
S		O		E		L		N		O		S		P
E	N	D	O	R	S	E		T	A	N	N	E	R	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	3	1	6	4	5	8	7	2
8	7	2	1	9	3	6	4	5
5	6	4	7	8	2	1	9	3
3	9	7	2	5	6	4	1	8
2	5	6	8	1	4	9	3	7
4	1	8	3	7	9	5	2	6
6	8	3	9	2	1	7	5	4
7	4	9	5	3	8	2	6	1
1	2	5	4	6	7	3	8	9

FAITH

Pay heed to good advice

Good and pious people are the role models worthy of emulation. Their behavioural conduct will help us to lead a better life. We should listen carefully to whatever they say as the information that they pass on may contain valuable guidance and suggestions. Even if people whom we may not like say anything we should not turn deaf ears but receive, analyse and if there be any useful suggestion or advice, it can be absorbed.

Ravana's mother cautioned him to pay heed to the words of Vibhishana though he was younger. Ravana was ruling the kingdom peacefully as long as he listened to the advice of Vibhishana. When Hanuman came to Lanka as a messenger, Ravana decided to kill Hanuman but Vibhishana told the (*Rajaneethi*) dharma to the king that any person on a mission as an envoy should not be slayed. If punishment is to be meted out, the envoy may be chastised. Listening to this, Ravana changed his mind and asked his soldiers to set fire to the tail of Hanuman. Until then Ravana did not incur any problem.

On another occasion Vibhishana pleaded with Ravana and told "What harm did Rama do to us?. You have brought Rama's wife here. It is very wrong and sinful. Ever since you brought Sita we see bad omens. So kindly accept your mistake and return Sita to Rama." But Ravana replied, "I can never agree to sending Sita back and begging pardon from Rama." The real problem started from here to Ravana. He was robbed of his mental peace and ultimately had to lose everything, said Smt. Prabha Senesh in a discourse. It is easy to speak sweet words but truth is bitter.

BEIJING

Astronauts working on Chinese space station return safely to earth

AFP

Three Chinese astronauts working at the country's space station have returned safely to earth, state media reported on Sunday, hailing the mission as a "complete success". The return capsule of the Shenzhou-15 spaceship touched down at a landing site in northern China's Inner Mongolia region. AFP

HONG KONG

Scores detained on anniversary of Tiananmen Square crackdown

AP

The Hong Kong police searched and detained scores of people on Sunday, four arrested for "seditious" intent, as authorities tightened security for the 34th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown. Commemorations are expected on Sunday in at least 30 places in North America, Europe and Asia. REUTERS

WARSAW

Polish Opposition parties stage major anti-government protest

REUTERS

People packed the streets of Warsaw, as Poland's Opposition parties held one of the biggest anti-government protests in the 30 years since the end of communism. Lech Walesa, former President and Nobel Peace Prize winner, joined the march against "the high cost of living, for democracy, free elections and the EU". AFP

ISMAILIA

Suez Canal traffic resumes after stranded tanker tugged away

REUTERS

Egypt deployed three tugboats on Sunday to tow away an oil tanker that had broken down and caused brief delays in the Suez Canal, authorities said. Traffic in both directions returned to normal after a brief disruption when the Malta-flagged Seavigour experienced a "machinery malfunction" while en route from Russia to China. AFP

Pro-Ukrainian group claims custody of two Russians

Reuters
KYIV

The Governor of Russia's Belgorod region said on Sunday that he was willing to meet a pro-Ukraine group of Russian partisans holding two Russian soldiers captive in exchange for a meeting with the Governor.

The Freedom of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps have claimed responsibility for a spate of cross-border attacks inside Russian territory.

The Governor of Belgorod agreed to meet the group if the soldiers were still alive. He added that fighting with a group of "Ukrainian saboteurs" was taking place near the Ukrainian border.

Kyiv shelling forces Moscow to relocate Belgorod residents

The overnight shelling on the border region that extended into Sunday killed two persons and displaced hundreds of children; more than 4,000 people relocated to temporary accommodation

Reuters
MOSCOW

Ukrainian forces continued to shell Russia's border region of Belgorod overnight into Sunday after two persons were killed the previous night and hundreds of children were evacuated away from the border, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov said.

"Overnight, it was quite restless," Mr. Gladkov said on the Telegram channel, adding that the Shebekino and Volokonovsky districts had suffered "lots" of damage from the latest shelling.

Mr. Gladkov later wrote that fires had broken out in the town of Shebekino after Ukrainian forces shelled a market area in the centre, adding that nobody had been injured. Shebekino is about 7 km from the Ukrainian border.

Sifting through: People evacuated from the Belgorod region receive humanitarian aid on Saturday. AFP

More than 4,000 people have been relocated to temporary accommodation in the region, Mr. Gladkov said.

The reality of the war, which Moscow launched in Ukraine in February 2022, has been increasingly brought to Russia, with not only intensified shelling on border regions but also air strikes deep inside the country, including last week on Moscow.

600 children moved

On Saturday, Gladkov escorted about 600 children from the region's Shebekino and Graivoron districts to the cities of Yaroslavl and Kaluga, far from the Ukrainian border. "The children of Shebekino are very worried about their hometown," he said.

Shebekino, a town of about 40,000, and other places in Belgorod have been attacked repeatedly recently, with Mr. Gladkov telling Russian media that his region now lives in "conditions of actual war".

NATO chief urges Turkey not to veto Sweden's bid

Agence France-Presse
ISTANBUL

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg on Sunday called upon Ankara to drop its opposition to Sweden's bid to join the U.S.-led defence alliance, hoping Stockholm's accession would be finalised "as soon as possible".

Pressure is building on Mr. Erdogan to greenlight Sweden's NATO membership ahead of a summit planned for July in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius.

"Membership will make Sweden safer but also make NATO and Turkey stronger," Mr. Stoltenberg told journalists after meeting with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and newly appointed Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, who was head of the intelligence agency, in Istanbul. "I look forward to finalising Sweden's accession as soon as possible," he said.

Coercion tactic: NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, left, and Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Istanbul on Sunday. REUTERS

'Haven of terrorists'

On Saturday Mr. Stoltenberg attended the inauguration of Mr. Erdogan, who was re-elected to serve another five years.

Mr. Erdogan has accused Sweden of being a haven for "terrorists", especially members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a group blacklisted by Turkey and its Western allies.

"Sweden has taken significant concrete steps to meet Turkey's concerns," Mr. Stoltenberg said.

"Sweden has fulfilled its obligations," Mr. Stoltenberg added.

'NATO-like' alliances could lead to conflict in Asia-Pacific: China

Agence France-Presse
SINGAPORE

China's Defence Minister warned on Sunday against establishing NATO-like military alliances in the Asia-Pacific, saying they would plunge the region into a "whirlpool" of conflict.

Li Shangfu's comments came a day after U.S. and Chinese military vessels sailed close to each other in the flashpoint Taiwan Strait, an incident that provoked anger from both sides.

"Attempts to push for NATO-like (alliances) in the Asia-Pacific is a way of kidnapping regional countries and exaggerating conflicts and confrontations," Mr. Li told a security conference in Singapore also attended by U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

Mr. Li's comments echoed long-held Chinese criticism of the United States' efforts to shore up alliances in the region and counter China's rise.

Li Shangfu

Military groupings

The U.S. is a member of AUKUS, which groups it with Australia and Britain.

Washington is also a member of the QUAD group, which includes Australia, India and Japan.

"Today's Asia-Pacific needs open and inclusive cooperation, not buddying up into small cliques," Mr. Li said at the Shangri-La Dialogue security summit.

Imran Khan likely to be tried in military court: Pak. Minister

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

No case registered against the PTI chief so far in connection with the May 9 attacks

Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said the chances were that former Prime Minister Imran Khan could be tried in a military court for his alleged involvement in the May 9 incidents in which military and state installations were attacked by his party workers, according to a media report on Sunday.

Mr. Khan, 70, could stand trial in a military court if evidence of his involvement in the May 9 violence surfaced in the coming days, Mr. Asif was quoted as saying by The *Express Tribune* newspaper.

He also confirmed that no case had been registered against the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf chief so far in connection with the May 9 attacks.

"Definitely...there are chances that Imran Khan can be tried in a military court," the Minister said while responding to a question if the deposed premier could be prosecuted under the Army Act.

His remarks came days after Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah said that Mr. Khan will be tried in a military court as the former Prime Minister was the "architect" of the May 9 incidents.

Mr. Khan's party found itself in hot waters when protesters allegedly belonging to the party attacked civil and military properties on May 9 following the arrest of Mr. Khan in the Al-Qadir corruption case.

Eight dead in shooting at men's hostel in S. Africa

Associated Press
CAPE TOWN

Gunmen burst into a room at a men's hostel near the eastern South African city of Durban, killing eight persons and leaving two others injured on Sunday. Seven men were declared dead immediately after the shooting in the pre-dawn hours of Saturday in Umlazi. An eighth man died on Sunday, the police said.

Saudi Arabia to cut oil output by 1 million barrels per day

Associated Press
FRANKFURT

Saudi Arabia said on Sunday that it will reduce supply of oil to the global economy, taking a unilateral step to support the sagging cost of crude after two previous cuts to supply by major oil-producing countries in the OPEC+ alliance failed to push prices higher.

The announcement of Saudi's cuts of 1 million barrels per day, which will start in July, followed a meeting of the alliance at OPEC headquarters in Vienna. The rest of the OPEC+ producers agreed to extend earlier production cuts through the end of 2024.

'Grand day'

"This is a grand day for us, because the quality of the agreement is unprecedented," Saudi Energy Minister Abdulaziz bin Salman said at a news conference.

Calling the Saudi reduction a "lollipop," Mr. bin Salman said, "We wanted to ice the cake." He said the cut could be extended and that the group "will do whatever is necessary to bring stability to this market."

The slump in oil prices has helped U.S. drivers fill their tanks more cheaply and given consumers worldwide some relief from inflation. It's possible the latest production cut could send oil prices up and with them, gasoline costs.

ASKUS

K. NITYA KALYANI

Q My dad (58) has been having a health policy since 2016. After 2021, there has been an abrupt increase in premium. For 2022-23, there was a 27% raise and for 2023-24, the insurer raised it by 34%, leading to a steep rise to ₹28,303 for a ₹5-lakh cover. The insurer attributed it to medical inflation. I sought a change of plan, but the insurer said it was not possible due to pre-existing disease.

I even tried porting, but was informed there would be claim issues in the future. We have no source of income other than interest on savings. I just want to know the options I have.

Also, 1) Is the increase in premium across the sector? 2) Can I complain to the grievance officer? 3) Is porting a viable option?

A Rising health insurance premiums is a reality and, apart from the increase in premium when you grow older and move from one age slab to another, rates are revised to keep in touch with the rising costs of health care viz. medical inflation.

Even a cursory check on insurers' websites and those of insurance brokers and aggregators will give you a picture of the state of things. Having said that, the extent to which premiums can be raised with advancing age or after claims is kept in check by the regulator as well. Pricing is a commercial aspect of your policy and the grievance mechanism is unlikely to be able to do anything for you about this except if there is blatant overcharging.

Porting is an option but it is not automatic on request.

The company you approach for porting can accept or deny your proposal. If they accept to underwrite the policy, they have to give you terms and benefits not lower than what you enjoy currently but, remember, pricing is still their independent decision.

Group insurance schemes can be easier on the pocket, or even free in the case of government schemes and you could explore.

Q The insurer denied my term insurance policy proposal as I had diabetes. I am 33. Please suggest what I can do?

SRINIVAS P

A Many insurance companies offer policies for those with pre-existing diseases and a quick check of the websites or websites of brokers/ insurance aggregators will give you the information you need to proceed. There will be a loading of premium and/ or a restriction on the sum assured, but you are better off with some insurance rather than none.

Q I work for a PSU bank in which I and my dependents are covered under group medical insurance scheme. I have also availed another comprehensive medical insurance policy for my dependent parents.

When a medical claim arises, can I claim under both the policies? Because I have read somewhere for claim process, original medical reports are to be submitted to insurer.

Hence, is it possible to claim from both group medical insurer and also from another insurer at a time for the same medical issue?

RAJESH ANDE

A You are right in saying that original bills are required for making any hospitalisation claim and hence, even if you claim from both policies, your total claim can only be for the expenses you have incurred as evidenced by the original bills you produce.

In a scenario where you have a basic hospitalisation policy and a top up, you can claim first from the basic policy to the extent of that coverage and then claim the expenses that are over and above that from the top up to the extent of the coverage under that policy. If you had a basic policy and a benefit policy like a cancer cover, healthy heart cover or even a personal accident policy, you can claim against bills from the basic policy, which is in the nature of an indemnity (or reimbursement) policy and the flat sum assured from the applicable benefit policy.

(The writer is business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Keep your portfolio simple, if you are investing directly

An investor should keep his/her portfolio simple when deciding on the type of investment without the aid of advisors. With everything available online, it is easy to invest.

INVESTMENT TENET

Joydeep Sen

There is enough coverage every day in the media, various discussion fora, etc. relating to guidance on investment-portfolio construction. This may confuse you.

Ideally, you should take professional guidance from an investment advisor. If you are doing it yourself, you can go by the following simple tenets.

Risk-return profile

There are asset classes where you invest. These are equity stocks, bonds, gold, etc. You expect to get back a higher amount later for the investment you are making today. The difference between the asset classes is in the risk-return profile. There are varying degrees of risk in these asset classes, and varying return expectations, as per historical track record of the asset categories. The risk is, you may not get the expected return from the investment.

The way to invest is either you do it yourself or do it through an investment vehicle. You can purchase equity stocks, bonds / debentures, gold (physical or financial form) etc. on your own. Nowadays, with everything available online, it is easy to execute.

However, it is not only about execution. It requires you to understand what you are getting into. And that requires bandwidth, time and expertise. To overcome this, there are investment vehicles, like mutual funds.

An investment vehicle will charge you fees, as they have to exist commercially. The returns you get are net of expenses charged by the fund. There is a reason you pay the fees; it is not possible for you to do everything yourself. Mutual funds have multiple fund categories (large cap, small cap etc.) and various strategies (active, passive, etc.) from which you can choose.

Diversified portfolio

The basic principle of portfolio construction is diversification, and allocation to various assets in a ratio that suits you. This is the most important piece of the equation. Various asset classes behave differently in different market situations.

This is known as negative correlation. Though it is not a perfect negative correlation i.e. minus 1 or minus 100%, to whatever extent it is there, it helps.

It balances out the phases of market volatility in the portfolio. In other words, it makes the investment journey smooth. When the market movement is adverse and you are looking at the investment-account statement, it would look more palatable. Adverse performance of an asset class is balanced out by the stable performance of another. The big question is, which allocation ratio is suitable?

Equity is the preferred asset class, hence you can have a higher allocation there. You are participating in the great Indian growth story. Along with the growth of the economy, as the corporate top line and bottomline grow, you get the benefit over an adequate period of time. The thumb rule is allocation to equity in your portfolio should be 100 minus age. For example, if your age is 40, allocation to equity should be 60%. Bonds or debt schemes of mutual funds are relatively more stable in performance.

Gold is a good portfolio diversifier; in times of global market uncertainty, gold tends to do well. Currently, the concept of de-dollarisation is gaining ground, which is positive for gold. However, gold, per se, is not a productive asset – it does not produce any economic value.

When you buy equity stocks, there is a company that is producing economic value, and the company is growing.

Allocation to gold

Hence, allocation to gold should be say 10 or 15% of the portfolio, but not on the higher side. Going by the thumb rule mentioned earlier, if your age is 40 and you agree with equity allocation of 60%, then, you may have, say, 25% to 30% in bonds / debt funds and 10% to 15% in gold. There is need for a liquid component in the portfolio, which can be easily encashed in times of need. This would be 5% to 10%, depending on the value of the portfolio. This may be part of the debt allocation, and parked in liquid funds of mutual funds or bank deposits.

Insurance is must

That was broadly about the portfolio composition.

Besides, there is need for insurance to take care of the family if something happens to you. This should be done in the form of term insurance, which is a pure insurance cover. It is advisable not to mix insurance with investment e.g. ULIPs or conventional insurance policies combining investment with insurance. Not only life, there is a need for health and accident insurance as well, for which you can buy appropriate policies.

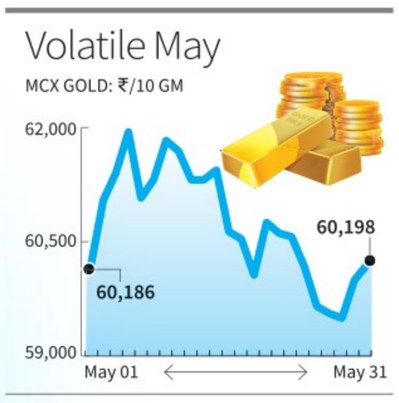
> If you do not understand or are not convinced about something, you should not put your hard-earned money into such investments

Conclusion

You would be bombarded from various quarters on how to enhance returns, how to optimise your portfolio, "multi-bagger ideas" etc. The point is, if you do not understand or are not convinced about something, you should not put your hard-earned money into it. It could be investment ideas about loss-making companies becoming "future kings," or cryptocurrency giving you multiple times returns etc.

Just keep it simple, and enjoy your life.

(The writer is a corporate trainer and author)



Gold, silver lack lustre

PRECIOUSMETALS

B. Krishnakumar

The price action in precious metals was listless in May with Comex gold and silver closing the month with a marginal loss. The strengthening of the U.S. dollar played a key role in keeping the prices under pressure. There was, however, some recovery towards the close of the month, aided by a softening U.S. dollar.

In May, Comex gold fell 0.85% to settle at $1,982.1 per ounce. Comex silver saw a much steeper fall of 6.5% to close at $23.6. Mirroring the trend in the global markets, MCX gold closed at ₹60,198, a marginal fall of 0.17%. MCX silver closed 4.4% lower to end May at ₹72,102 per kilogram.

As anticipated last month, the price of Comex gold slid to the target price of $1,940-1,950. After dropping to a low of $1,936 on May 26, the price has been recovering. The recent recovery suggests the next leg of the uptrend is underway in Comex gold. The price could head to the immediate target zone of $2,025-$2,030. The short-term positive outlook would be invalidated if the price falls below the support zone of $1,920-$1,925. A breakout above $2,035 could push the Comex gold price to the next target zone of $2,050-2,060.

Comex silver, too, hit the target zone of $23.5-$24 mentioned last month. After dropping to a low of $22.78 on May 26, the price recovered. The short-term outlook is positive and silver price could rise to the target zone of $25.5-$26. A move past $24.5 would strengthen the case for a rally to the target zone. A fall below $22.6 would be a sign of weakness and invalidate the positive outlook.

In the domestic market, MCX gold remained subdued. The price, however, did not drop to the then-mentioned target zone of ₹57,600-58,000. The short-term outlook is positive and the price could head to the target zone of ₹61,500-62,000. This outlook will be invalidated if the price falls below ₹59,000. As anticipated, MCX silver ruled weak in May and the price also hit the target zone of ₹72,500-73,000. The short-term outlook is positive, and the price could head to target zone of ₹75,500-76,000. A move above ₹73,500 would strengthen the case for a rally to the target zone while a fall below ₹70,000 would invalidate the positive view. To summarise, the recent price action indicates precious metals could head higher in the short-term. The positive outlook would be valid as long as the price sustains above the negative trigger level mentioned above.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
State Bank of India	11.00-15.00	10,871-11,895	2,174-2,379	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (minimum Rs 1,000 and maximum Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	14.23	11,694	2,399	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Rates and charges as on May 31 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Flat Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.85 - 12.20	10,343 - 11,173	0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.75	10,343 - 10,809	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.70 - 10.55	10,307 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.60 - 9.65	10,282 - 10,538	Up to Rs 2,000
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.90	10,319 - 10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.90 - 13.00	10,355 - 11,377	0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.37 - 11.79	10,469 - 11,069	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	11.00	10,871	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank	9.00-10.10	10,379 - 10,648	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)***
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
IDFC First Bank	9.00 onwards	10,379	Up to 3.5%
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders*
***0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers*
****Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam*

Rates and charges as on May 31 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

PULLING ONE BACK

Sri Lanka levels series with comprehensive win

Sri Lanka squared the three-match ODI series 1-1 against Afghanistan on Sunday with a facile 132-run win at Hambantota. **The scores**: Sri Lanka 323/6 in 50 overs (Karunaratne 52, K. Mendis 78) bt Afghanistan 191 in 42.1 overs (Zadran 54, Hashmatullah 57, Hasaranga 3/42, Dhananjaya 3/39). **Toss**: Sri Lanka.

GOODBYE

Messi bids adieu to Paris amid boos from crowds

Lionel Messi didn't care about the boos in his final game for PSG as the French league champion lost to Clermont on Saturday. Messi walked onto the field with a smile, holding his three children's hands. "I'd like to thank the club, the city of Paris and its people for these two years. I wish you all the best for the future," he said.

LEGEND NO MORE

Jim Hines, former Olympic 100m champion, passes away

Jim Hines, the first athlete to officially break the 10 seconds barrier in the 100 metres, passed away on Friday at the age of 76. A double Olympic gold medallist from Mexico City (100m & 4x100m), he held the 100m world record (9.95s) for 15 years until fellow-American Calvin Smith broke it in 1983. He later played in the NFL.

MAKING MERRY

Yashasvi Jaiswal having a good time 'exploring London'

Rajasthan Royals and India U-19 star Yashasvi Jaiswal is having a great time in the United Kingdom ahead of the WTC final. In a photo shared on his *Instagram*, Jaiswal posted a picture of him hanging out with all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja and wicketkeeper-batter K.S. Bharat. "Exploring London," said the caption of Jaiswal's post.

Djokovic and Alcaraz stay on track for last-four showdown

The two-time champion eases past Varillas for a record 17th quarterfinal appearance at Roland-Garros and a 55th at a Major; Spaniard World No. 1 dismantles Musetti; Svitolina, Pavlyuchenkova, and Muchova advance in women's singles

Dictating terms: Djokovic attacked Varillas at every opportunity to take control of his fourth-round match. REUTERS

FRENCH OPEN

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Novak Djokovic swept into the French Open quarterfinals for the 14th straight year on Sunday as World No.1 Carlos Alcaraz breezed past Lorenzo Musetti to stay on a collision course in the semifinals with the 22-time Grand Slam champion.

Third seed Djokovic ended the surprise run of Peruvian outsider Juan Pablo Varillas, winning 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, and has yet to drop a set through four matches. The Serb, chasing a third Roland-Garros crown, is inched to a record 17th French Open quarterfinal after making the last eight at a Major for the 55th time.

"I'm proud of it, but my attention is already in the next match," said Djokovic, who faces Russian 11th seed Karen Khachanov for a place in the semifinals.

Khachanov made his third successive Grand Slam quarterfinal after he recovered from a bad start to overcome Lorenzo Sonego 1-6, 6-4, 7-6(7), 6-1.

Djokovic holds an 8-1 record against Khachanov, winning their only previous meeting at the French Open in 2020.

Alcaraz looked every part the tournament favourite as he dismantled the talented 17th seed Musetti 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 to return to the French Open last eight.

"I think I played such a great level, really high quality of shots. I played a really complete match from the first ball until the last and I'm pretty happy to get through this tough round," said Alcaraz.

Moving ahead

Elina Svitolina, playing her first Grand Slam since becoming a mother, reached the quarterfinals for the fourth time. The Ukrainian defeated Daria Kasatkina 6-4, 7-6(5) for a seventh win in seven meetings against the Russian who was a semifinalist last year.

Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, the 2021 runner-up, rallied to dump Belgian 28th seed Elise Mertens 3-6, 7-6 (3), 6-3 and set up a clash with Karolina Muchova for a place in the last four after the Czech saw off lucky Elina Avanesyan 6-4, 6-3.

Disqualified

The women's doubles pair of Miyu Kato (Japan) and Aldila Sutjiadi (Indonesia) was disqualified from the French Open on Sunday after a ballgirl was accidentally hit by a gentle-looking Kato backhand.

Kato was warned but the supervisor was then called to the court and the pair was disqualified from the third round.

The day in numbers

3 Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova is only the third player ranked outside the WTA's top 250 to reach a Grand Slam quarterfinal in the Open Era - Pavlyuchenkova (French Open 2023), Kanepi (US Open 2017), Hingis (Australian Open 2006)

11 Anna Karolina Schmiedlova is the first Slovak woman to reach the fourth round at Roland Garros in 11 years. (Dominika Cibulkova, 2012)

17 Novak Djokovic has reached his 17th French Open quarterfinal, breaking Rafael Nadal's all-time record of 16

4 Four South American men reached fourth round at Roland-Garros for the first time since 2005 - Varillas (Peru), Jarry (Chile), Cerundolo (Argentina), Etcheverry (Argentina)

Monday's picks

Men
- Ruud vs Jarry
- Zverev vs Dimitrov
- Rune vs Cerundolo
- Nishioka vs Etcheverry

Women
- Jabeur vs Pera
- Swiatek vs Tsurenko
- Gauff vs Schmiedlova
- Haddad Maia vs Sorribes Tormo

COMPILED BY NIHIT SACHDEVA

FOURTH ROUND RESULTS

Men: 11-Khachanov bt Sonego (Ita) 1-6, 6-4, 7-6(7), 6-1; 3-Djokovic (Srb) bt Varillas (Per) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; 1-Alcaraz (Esp) bt 17-Musetti (Ita) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2.
Women: Pavlyuchenkova bt 28-Mertens (Bel) 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-3; Muchova (Cze) bt Avanesyan 6-4, 6-3; Svitolina (Ukr) bt 9-Kasatkina 6-4, 7-6(5).

'In England, you never feel in but you know when to attack'

Press Trust of India
LONDON

His only Test hundred outside the sub-continent came at the Oval in 2021 and India captain Rohit Sharma says one never feels "in" as a batter in English conditions but somehow develops an intuition as to when to attack the opposition bowling.

Ahead of the World Test Championship final against Australia starting Wednesday, the India skipper, who has enjoyed the best batting average in his team (50-plus) since the inception of the tournament, feels that there is no substitute for hard grind on English tracks.

"Look, I think, in England in general, it's pretty challenging conditions for batters. As long as you are prepared to have a good grind, you can have success," Rohit said during an ICC event 'Afternoon With Test Legends' here on Sunday.

Rohit, who was India's best batter in four Tests in 2021 against England, spoke about his personal experience while seated alongside Pat Cummins, Ross Taylor and Ian Bell.

"One thing I realised in 2021, you are never in (set) and the weather keeps changing. You need to keep concentrating for longer periods of time and you will get that intuition when it's time to take on the bowlers. More importantly, you need to be out there and you have got to understand what your strengths are," the skipper said.

Rohit. PTI

For someone who is big on data and analytic, as one has seen him with Mumbai Indians and Team India over years, Rohit feels that knowing the scoring pattern of former players, who have had success at the Oval, won't be a bad idea.

"I am not going to try and emulate them (successful players) but it would be a bit nice to know their pattern of scoring. What I have found out at the Oval is that the square boundaries are pretty quick."

Switching formats for over a decade now, Rohit knows it's hard but somehow enjoys that challenge, and his ability to tweak his technique as per requirements.

Injured Hazlewood ruled out of WTC final

Press Trust of India
LONDON

Australia suffered a big setback after senior fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was ruled out of the upcoming World Test Championship final against India, having failed to recover from a side strain picked up during his IPL stint.

The WTC final is scheduled at the Oval from June 7 to 11.

Australia included fast bowler Michael Neser in the squad with Hazlewood reportedly being given furthermore time to recover and prepare for the Ashes in England.

Neser has been playing in the County Championship for Glamorgan this season and has been in fine rhythm, having taken 14 wickets in his last three games which includes seven for 32 against Yorkshire. He has played two Tests for Australia and has got seven wickets.

The Ashes series will start on June 16, and Hazlewood, who has already missed a plenty of Test cricket action for Australia, will get more time to be ready for the series.

Green hopes to bring in Rohit's calmness

Press Trust of India
BECKENHAM

Australian all-rounder Cameron Green hopes to bring the calmness of Rohit Sharma into his game, having spent a quality time with the India captain in the Mumbai Indians dugout in the IPL this year.

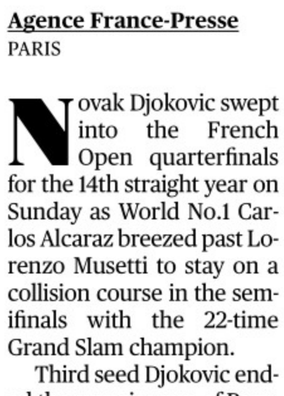
Green, with 452 runs and six wickets, played a key role in MI's campaign this season under Rohit's captaincy, even though the five-time champions were eventually knocked out in Qualifier 2.

"The calmness he (Rohit) has out in the middle is so evident," Green told the ICC ahead of the World Test Championship Final against India at The Oval, starting June 7.

"He's obviously been there and done that for 10 years. To be out there with him and just talk through a situation was awesome. My role was trying to be aggressive and then he obviously showed ways to go about it, whether it was attacking spin, attacking pace, kind of picking your bowler in a way," the 24-year-old added.

Green can turn to what he learnt from Rohit in the IPL, especially during their crucial century partnership against Sunrisers Hyderabad, when they meet in the red-ball showdown.

Vitidsarn and An take the honours



Kunlavut Vitidsarn. AFP

An Se-young. AFP

THAILAND OPEN

Agence France-Presse
BANGKOK

South Korea's An Se-young, the World No. 2 , overcame China's He Bingjiao 21-10l, 21-19 to claim the women's singles title in the Thailand Open badminton tournament here on Sunday.

"I'm feeling ecstatic," An said after the match. "Winning another championship makes it feel like another fantastic day. "It's a significant milestone for me," she added.

Local hero Kunlavut Vitidsarn dominated Hong Kong's Lee Cheuk-yiu to post a 21-12, 21-10 win and claim the honours in the men's section.

He became only the fourth Thai man to win the tournament and enthusiastically thanked the ecstatic crowd.

He said the energy in the stadium helped him, adding: "I can focus on the game better."

Verstappen and Red Bull's dominance continues

SPANISH GP

Reuters
MONTMELO

Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix from pole position on Sunday to stretch his Formula One championship lead to 53 points and continue Red Bull's sweep of the season with the team's seventh success in as many races.

Seven-times World champion Lewis Hamilton was second for Mercedes, but a distant 24.090 seconds behind, with teammate George Russell completing the podium on a cloudy but dry afternoon at Barcelona's Circuit de Catalunya.

Red Bull's Sergio Perez, Verstappen's closest rival in a season that looks sure to crown the dominant Dutch 25-year-old for a third time, finished fourth after fighting back from 11th at the start. The win was Verstappen's fifth of the season, third in a row, third in Spain and the double World champion's 40th in Formula One.

Bull run: Verstappen led from lights to flag to pull off his third consecutive win of the season. AFP

Sainz was fifth with the Aston Martins of Lance Stroll and Fernando Alonso sixth and seventh.

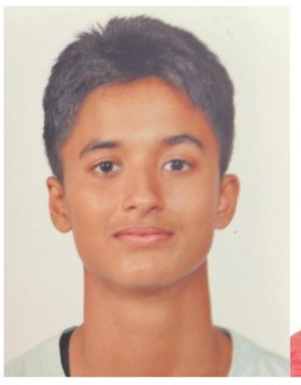
The results: 1. Verstappen (Red Bull)- 1:27:57.940, 2. Hamilton (Mercedes) + 24.090s, 3. Russell (Mercedes) + 32.389s, 4. Perez (Red Bull) + 35.812s, 5. Sainz (Ferrari) + 45.698s, 6. Stroll (Aston Martin) + 63.320s, 7. Alonso (Aston Martin) + 64.127s, 8. Ocon (Alpine) + 69.242s, 9. Guanyu (Alfa Romeo) + 71.878s, 10. Gasly (Alpine) + 73.530s, 11. Leclerc (Ferrari) + 74.419s, 12. Tsunoda (AlphaTauri) + 75.416s.

One lap: 13. Piastri (McLaren), 14. De Vries (AlphaTauri), 15. Hulkenberg (Haas), 16. Albon (Williams), 17. Magnussen (Haas), 18. Norris (McLaren), 19. Bottas (Alfa Romeo), 20. Sargeant (Williams).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 170, 2. Perez 117, 3. Alonso 99, 4. Hamilton 87, 5. Russell 65.

Constructors: 1. Red Bull 287, 2. Mercedes 152, 3. Aston Martin 134, 4. Ferrari 100, 5. Alpine 40.

Rezoana, Bhartpreet strike gold



Rezoana (women's 400m) and Bhartpreet (men's discus).

ASIAN U-20 ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Rezoana Mallick Heena, the Asian under-18 400m champion in Uzbekistan in April, added the Asian under-20 championships gold to her growing collection at Yecheon, South Korea, on Sunday.

The 16-year-old beat Sri Lanka's Dissanayaka Dilsara to win in 53.31s.

India won another gold, through Bhartpreet Singh in men's discus (55.66m), and the women's 5000m bronze through Antima Pal.

Select results (gold medallists and Indian performances):
Men: 400m: 1. Ismail Abakar (Qat) 46.17s. **3000m:** 1. Nagashima Sonata (Jpn) 8:19.49s; **Pole vault:** 1. Seifeldin Mohamed (Qat) 5.50m. (Dev Meena (Ind) no mark); **Discus:** 1. Bhartpreet Singh (Ind) 55.66m.
Women: 400m: 1. Rezoana Mallick Heena (Ind) 53.31s; **5000m:** 1. Yonesawa Nanaka (Jpn) 16:37.37s, 3. Antima Pal (Ind) 17:17.11s, 5. Bushra Khan Gauri (Ind) 18:15.98; **Javelin:** 1. Sakurai Nozomi (Jpn) 50.02m. Shot put: 1. Lin Jiaxin (Chn) 15.91m, 4. Vidhi (Ind) 15.16.

INBRIEF

Aravindh wins Dubai Open chess; Arjun third

Leading from the start to the finish, ninth seed Aravindh Chithambaram topped a four-way tie to win the prestigious Dubai Open chess title in Dubai on Sunday. In the ninth and final round, Aravindh drew with compatriot and joint overnight leader Arjun Erigaisi to claim the honours. Draws on the top seven boards meant the four overnight leaders – Aravindh, Javokhir Sindarov (Uzbekistan), Arjun and Maxim Matlakov (Russia) – tallied 6.5 points each and finished in that order.

Final standings (involving Indians): 1. Aravindh Chithambaram (6.5 points), 3. Arjun Erigaisi (6.5), 12. Karthik Venkataraman (6), 16. Abhijeet Gupta (6), 18. M. R. Lalit Babu (6), 19. Anuj Shrivatri (5.5), 21. Aditya Mittal (5), 25. Sandipan Chanda (5), 28. M. Karthikeyan (5), 36. B. Adhiban (4.5), 50. Sankalp Gupta (4), 57. Sambit Panda (4), 58. Rithvik Raja (4), 61. Harsha Bharathakoti (3.5).

Nkunku-inspired Leipzig defends German Cup

Christopher Nkunku-inspired RB Leipzig won its second straight German Cup title on Saturday, beating Eintracht Frankfurt 2-0 in Berlin. Nkunku broke the deadlock after 71 minutes, his low shot taking a deflection and into the goal against the run of play. Dominik Szoboszlai added the second in the 85th minute.

PSG's Mbappe wins record fifth French golden boot

Paris Saint-Germain striker Kylian Mbappe won a record fifth straight French golden boot while Rennes clinched a Europa League spot and Auxerre was relegated in the French Ligue 1. Mbappe's goal in a 3-2 loss to Clermont helped him finish the league with 29 and made him the top scorer for the fifth time, tied with French great Jean-Pierre Papin and retired Argentine strikers Carlos Bianchi and Delio Onnis.

Inter Milan assured of a top-three finish

Champions League finalist Inter Milan wrapped up its Serie A season on Saturday with a 1-0 win at Torino thanks to a first-half goal by Marcelo Brozovic, a result which guaranteed it a top-three finish. Brozovic scored the only goal for the visitors eight minutes before the interval. He unleashed a shot from outside the box, taking advantage of the ample space provided by the Torino defence. Torino seemed to lack the energy and motivation to make a final push, with the match fizzling out.

The results: Serie A: Cremonese 2 (Buonaiuto 26-pen, Tsadjout 88) bt Salernitana 0; Empoli 0 lost to Lazio 2 (Romagnoli 48, Luis Alberto 90+2); Torino 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Brozovic 37).

Aditi placed second in Americas Open in Jersey City

Indian golfer Aditi Ashok stayed in contention for the title as she carded 4-under 68 on the third day of the Mizuho Americas Open on the LPGA Tour in Jersey City (USA). Despite a late bogey, the 25-year-old was tied second behind the 20-year-old Rose Zhang, who is making her debut as a pro. For the third time this season and for her third tournament in a row, Aditi is within five of the lead entering the final round.

LIVE TELECAST

Roland Garros: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 2.30 p.m. onwards

Sweet double for Rajiv Sethu and Mathana Kumar

Former does it in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc while the Pacer Yamaha's comes in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open category; Prabhu Arunagiri retired after nine laps due to a mechanical issue

MOTORSPORTS

Rayan Rozario
COIMBATORE

What a difference a day makes. Only the other day, Chennai's Rajiv Sethu had a fight on his hands. But, this time around, he did not sweat much on his way to scoring a grand double in the premier Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open class in the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship at the Kari Motor Speedway in Chettipalayam here on Sunday.

Having learnt the hard way in the opener, Sethu did the course correction quickly and moved to the top without much ado in the second race. From there, he upped the pace for most part of the 14-lap event. Soon he found there was no big challenge coming his way and, relaxed a bit towards the end to seal a place on the podium.

Pacer Yamaha's Mathana Kumar did likewise, scoring a double in the Pro-Stock 165cc Open category. The team looked set for another 1-2 finish, but Prabhu Arunagiri, who finished second in the opening race, retired after nine laps due to a mechanical issue.

Hyderabad's 19-year-old Vignesh Goud (Race'ists Motorcycle Club) was equally commanding in the Novice (Stock 165cc) category as he won both races.

Easy peasy: Neither Muthu nor Mathana Kumar had to sweat much on their way to their wins.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results (provisional): National championship – Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open (14 laps): 1. Rajiv Sethu (RACR Castrol Power 1 Ultimate) 17:10.905s); 2. Sarthak Chavan (Petronas TVS Racing); 3. Rahil Pillarisetty (KTM Gusto Racing).
Pro-Stock 165cc Open (14 laps): 1. S. Mathana Kumar (Pacer Yamaha) 18:16.308; 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (Petronas TVS Racing); 3. K.Y. Ahamed (Petronas TVS Racing).
Novice (Stock 165cc) (10 laps): 1. Vignesh Goud (Race'ists MC) 14:38.296; 2. Tasmai Cariappa (Pacer Yamaha) 3. Savion Sabu (Axor Sparks Racing).
Girls (Stock 165cc) (8 laps): 1. Lani Fernandez (RACR Castrol Power 1 Ultimate) 11:49.553; 2. Ann Jennifer (Alpha Racing); 3. Jagathishree Kumaresan (One Racing).
Petronas TVS One-Make Championship – Open (Apache RR 310) (Race 1, 10 laps): 1. A. Alwin Sundar (Chennai) 12:51.163; 2. Manoj Yesuadiyan (Chennai); 3. C. Senthil Kumar (Coimbatore). Race-2 (10 laps): 1. Alwin Sundar 12:55.616; 2. C. Senthilkumar; 3. Manoj Yesuadiyan.
Rookie (Apache RTR 200) (10 laps): 1. Copparam Hareesh Shreyas (Bengaluru) 13:58.187; 2. Savion Sabu 14:02.196; 3. Nandanan (Chennai).
Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup (Open, NSF 250) (14 laps): 1. Kavin Quintal (Chennai) 17:11.908; 2. Rakshith S. Dave (Chennai); 3. Prakash Kamath (Steel City).

Jamari obliges in D.T. Racing & Breeding LLP Juvenile Million

BENGALURU: P. Shroff-trained Jamari (Trevor up) won the D.T. Racing & Breeding LLP Juvenile Million, the chief event of the races held here on Sunday (June 4). The winner is owned by Five Stars Shipping Co. Pvt. Ltd. rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trevor won three races on the day.

THE RESULTS:

1. AUREOLE TIME PLATE: BY THE BOOK (Zervan) 1, Sand Castles (Hindu S) 2, Elite Agent (Rajesh K) 3 and Altamonte (Vivek) 4. 1/2, 4-1/2 and Shd. 1m, 27.09s. ₹17 (w), 11, 15 and 18 (p), SHP: 40, THP: 45, FP: 53, Q: 46, Trinella: 366, Exacta: 1,085. Favourite: By The Book. Owners: Mrs. Anneka Darashah, Mr. Neil Darashah, Mr. Rajan Aggarwal & Mr. Divya Chawcharia. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

2. ELITE FORCE PLATE (DIV. II): STELLANTIS (Trevor) 1, Excellent Ray (Kiran Naidu) 2, Cinco De Mayo (Shreyas S) 3 and Defininig Power (Rajesh K) 4. 3/4, 4-3/4 and Snk. 1m, 12.60s. ₹15 (w), 11, 14 and 29 (p), SHP: 51, THP: 71, FP: 75, Q: 68, Trinella: 1,228, Exacta: 2,834. Favourite: Stellantis. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra & Mrs. Rina Mahindra. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

3. ENDORSEMENT PLATE: BIG RED (Akshay K) 1, Shadow Of The Moon (Yash) 2, Irish Rockstar (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Julio (Trevor) 4. Not run: Lionel. 3-1/2, 1 and Nk. 1m, 39.29s. ₹22 (w), 10, 13 and 16 (p), SHP: 47, THP: 40, FP: 168, Q: 121, Trinella: 782, Exacta: 1,124. Favourite: Big Red. Owners: Mrs. Liane Milan Luthria, Mr. Milan Luthria, Mr. Homi F. Mehta & Mrs. Homi F. Mehta & Mr. Jehangir Homi Mehta & Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by. Trainer: Imtiaz Sait.

4. UDHAGAMANDALAM PLATE: MAZAL TOV (Trevor) 1, Knotty Challenger (Hindu S) 2, Golden Glow (Akshay K) 3 and Marzgovel (Shreyas S) 4. 5-1/4, 3/4 and 2-1/4. 1m, 12.44s. ₹25 (w), 13, 58 and 13 (p), SHP: 230, THP: 43, FP: 344, Q: 302, Trinella: 2,139, Exacta: 20,939. Favourite: Mazal Tov. Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mr. Jatin Laxmikant Trivedi, Mr. Nitin Himmatmal Jain, Mr. G. Surendranath & Mr. Sp. Thirunavukkarasu. Trainer: Neil Devaney.

5. S.G. MADHUKAR MEMORIAL TROPHY: PINK JASMINE (Shreyas S) 1, Shabelle (Trevor) 2, Lazarus (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Original Sin (N.S. Parmar) 4. 2-1/2, 2-1/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 24.66s. ₹488 (w), 59, 13 and 12 (p), SHP: 25, THP: 60, FP: 3,341, Q: 2,307, Trinella: 6,116, Exacta: 75,468. Favourite: Lazarus. Owners: Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

6. DT RACING & BREEDING LLP JUVENILE MILLION: JAMARI (Trevor) 1, Czar (C. Umesh) 2, Knotty Charmer (P.S. Chouhan) 3 and Fighton (N.S. Parmar) 4. 2-1/2, Nk and 1-1/4. 1m, 24.42s. ₹16 (w), 11, 41 and 13 (p), SHP: 170, THP: 48, FP: 403, Q: 387, Trinella: 1,133, Exacta: 3,481. Favourite: Jamari. Owners: Five Stars Shipping Co Pvt Ltd rep. by Mr. K.N. Dhunjibhoy & Mr. Z.K. Dhunjibhoy, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP rep. by Mr. D.R. Thacker & Miss. Anita J. Captain. Trainer: P. Shroff.

7. ELITE FORCE PLATE (DIV. I): GALATICUS (Yash) 1, Able One (Syed Imran) 2, Limited Edition (Jagadeesh) 3 and Super Gladiator (Ashhad Asbar) 4. Not run: Caesars Palace. 4-3/4, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m, 13.39s. ₹34 (w), 14, 18 and 24 (p), SHP: 44, THP: 52, FP: 261, Q: 115, Trinella: 659, Exacta: 1,416. Favourite: Super Gladiator. Owners: Villoo Poonawalla Racing & Breeding Pvt Ltd rep. by Dr. Cyrus S. Poonawalla & Mr. Adar C. Poonawalla. Trainer: Rajesh Narredu.

Jackpot: ₹26,607 (three tkts.); Runner-up: 5,701 (six tkts.); Treble (i): 133 (54 tkts.); (ii): 2,153 (seven tkts.).

Gukesh holds Carlsen, moves to career-high live rating

NORWAY CHESS

Sports Bureau

Continuing his impressive run, D. Gukesh proved equal to World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen in 82 moves in the fourth round of the 11th Norway Chess in Stavanger, Norway, on Saturday.

Though Carlsen prevailed in the tie-breaking Armageddon game to gain half-a-point more, Gukesh remained in the fourth spot, behind Fabiano Caruana, Hikaru Nakamura and Alireza Firouzja. Carlsen is placed eighth in the 10-man field.

The well-fought, marathon encounter saw Gukesh match Carlsen for a second time in classical format. Saturday's draw earned Gukesh 1.6 rating points for a career-high live rating of 2739. In live ratings, Gukesh holds the 15th spot in the world.

On a day when four out of five encounters went to Armageddon, Gukesh and Carlsen fought fiercely. Gukesh sacrificed his queen to keep his chances alive in the must-win game from the white side.

However, following a blunder on the 51st move, which was to cost Gukesh a knight, he resigned. By this time, the players made several moves in the incremental time of one second on the clock. Overnight leader Fabiano Caruana was the only one to win a classical game. He outwitted Alireza Firouzja for his third classical win in four rounds and regained second place in World rankings.

The results: Fourth round: D. Gukesh drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor); Fabiano Caruana (USA, 10.5) bt Alireza Firouzja (Fra, 6); Anish Giri (Ned) drew with Hikaru Nakamura (USA); Aryan Tari (Nor) drew with Wesley So (USA); Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (Aze) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb).
Armageddon: Gukesh (5.5) lost to Carlsen (4.5); Giri (5) lost to Nakamura (6.5); Tari (2) drew with So (5); Mamedyarov (4) bt Abdusattorov (5).
Fifth-round pairings: Abdusattorov-Gukesh; Caruana-Mamedyarov; So-Firouzja; Nakamura-Tari; Carlsen-Giri.

It's Gunther all the way from pole to finish in a perfect weekend

JAKARTA EPRIX

S. Dipak Ragav
JAKARTA

Maximilian Gunther had one of the perfect weekends as he romped home to victory from pole position in the second race of the Jakarta ePrix round of the Formula E championship here on Sunday.

The Maserati driver has been on song the whole weekend topping the practice sessions as well as every session in both qualifying events on Saturday and Sunday to take two pole positions.

While he couldn't convert the pole to win in the first race and had to settle for third, the German driver left the pursuing pack way behind on Sunday in the second race.

Jake Dennis kept things interesting during the race's first half, but as on Saturday, had to settle for second place, while Jaguar TCS Racing's Mitch Evans finished a distant third.

In the qualifying session early in the morning, Gunther topped the first part of qualifying in which eight drivers competed before breezing past the duels stage of quarterfinals, semifinals and the final to earn his second pole position of the weekend.

On song: Maserati's Gunther zooming ahead of Avalanche Andretti's Dennis and Evans of Jaguar TCS Racing. LAT IMAGES

At the start, Gunther got away cleanly while Dennis braved an attack from Evans, with the top three holding positions for the first few laps.

Gunther dropped to third briefly when he went for attack mode – where drivers leave the track to gain more power to use later in the race. Dennis, who followed suit, managed to come out ahead of Gunther, gaining a position.

Evans dropped to third from the lead after his attack mode, but immediately got past Gunther and looked good for a win. However, the German fought back on the next lap and got ahead.

During the second round of attack modes, Dennis took it first before Gunther, but this time the German driver got the jump on Dennis and sprinted away.

When Evans took his attack mode, he fell back behind Dennis and slowly lost touch with the top two.

Meanwhile, Pascal Wehrlien, who won the first race on Saturday, finished sixth but crucially took the championship lead. Wehrlien was involved in a clash with championship leader Nick Cassidy when the latter bumped from behind and paid the price – finishing without points and surrendering his lead.

Mahindra Racing's Lucas di Grassi finished 14th while Roberto Merhi was 17th.

Benzema to leave Madrid after a 14-year stint

Agence France-Presse
MADRID

Real Madrid striker Karim Benzema has agreed a deal to end his glittering era at the club, the Spanish giants said Sunday. The forward, 35, has been heavily linked this week with a lucrative move to Saudi Arabia.

"Real Madrid and our captain Karim Benzema have agreed to put an end to his brilliant and unforgettable era as a player at our club," said *Los Blancos* in a statement.

The French forward joined Madrid in 2009 from Ligue 1 side Lyon.

Sanjivani runs to the 10,000m silver

Sports Bureau

Sanjivani Jadhav won the women's 10,000m silver medal at the Portland Track Festival in Oregon (USA), in a personal best 32:46.88s on Saturday.

Meanwhile Shankar Lal Swami finished 11th (8:45.48s) in the men's 3000m steeple chase in the same meet, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Silver event.

Jyothi finishes fourth

National record-holder Jyothi Yarraji (personal best 12.82s) finished fourth in the women's 100m hurdles in 13.03s at the Orlen Janusz Kusocinski memorial meet at Chorzow (Poland) on Sunday. American Alaysha Johnson won the gold in 12.42s in the event, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Silver event.

Amlan fastest

In Belgium, Amlan Borgohain emerged as the fastest man at the Flanders Cup in Antwerp on Saturday.

Three finals were held in the 100m and the 25-year-old Indian was fastest overall while winning the final-3 in 10.70s. He was also fastest overall in the 200m, clocking 20.96s. Meanwhile, Muhammed Afsal did not finish in the 800m.

Rutuja stuns top seed Gasanova to take the honours

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Rutuja Bhosale overcame an intimidating start to outwit top seed Anastasia Gasanova 0-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the final of the $25,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in La Marsa, Tunisia, on Sunday.

In a battle of wits that lasted just over two hours, Rutuja, who had won only nine points in the first set, led 5-2 in the decider, before converting her fifth match point in the tenth game.

It was the fifth singles title of her professional career for the 27-year-old Rutuja, and the first at the $25,000 level.

Victor and vanquished: Rutuja, with runner-up Gasanova.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She has 19 doubles titles and many at the $25,000 level.

INBRIEF

Forward Asensio to part ways with Real Madrid

Forward Marco Asensio said on Saturday that he will be leaving Real Madrid at the end of his contract in June. Asensio won the LaLiga and the Champions League three times each with Real, as well as the Copa del Rey this season for the first time, scoring 61 goals in 285 appearances.

Indian grapplers come up short

Sports Bureau

Indian freestyle wrestlers had a lacklustre day at the Ranking series wrestling event in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Sunday.

In the 61kg weight class featuring three Indians, Olympic 57kg silver medallist Ravi Kumar Dahiya, who was all set to make a comeback following an injury layoff, pulled out after he injured his knee while warming up.

Pankaj beat Georgia's Giorgi Goniashvili 8-2 and fellow compatriot and 57kg Asian champion Aman Sehrawat 8-1 in the quarterfinals before losing 0-7 to local favourite and Asian champion Taiyrbek Zhumashbek Uulu in the semifinal.

Pankaj suffered a 1-6 defeat at the hands of Turkey's Ermah Ormanoglu in the bronze medal contest.

Mulaym Yadav (70kg) got past Kazakhstan's Doszhan Assetov 9-4 and Georgia's Davit Patsinashvili 6-2 before being defeated 1-7 by Kyrgyzstan's Asian bronze medallist Orozobek Toktomambetov in the semifinals.

The Indian wrestler was beaten 6-6 via criteria by Turkey's Servet Coskun in the contest for the bronze medal.

Former Worlds silver medallist Deepak Punia exited in the quarterfinals following his 3-5 reversal to Georgia's Tariel Gaphrindashvili.

Gautami-Abhinav pair wins mixed air rifle gold

The two put it across Muller & Aufrere of France 16-12; Sainyam & Abhinav top qualification in mixed air pistol; India on top of the medals table with two gold, one silver and one bronze

Golden finish: Abhinav and Gautami, champions in the mixed air rifle event. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

JUNIOR WORLD CUP

Sports Bureau

Gautami Bhanot and Abhinav Shaw won the mixed air rifle gold by beating Oceanne Muller and Romain Aufrere of France 16-12 in the Junior World Cup in Suhl, Germany, on Sunday.

It was the second gold for India after the air pistol gold won by Sainyam.

In mixed air pistol, Sainyam and Abhinav Choudhary topped qualification with 578 but the duo was beaten to the gold 16-12 by Koreans Kim Juri and Kim Manghyun.

The second Indian team of Suruchi Singh and Shubham Bisla won the bronze by beating Uzbekistan 16-14.

India was on top of the medals table with two gold, one silver and one bronze, while Korea followed with one gold and two silver. Italy was the third to win a gold medal.

The results:
Mixed air rifle: 1. India-2 (Gautami Bhanot, Abhinav Shaw) 17 (628.3); 2. France (Oceanne Muller, Romain Aufrere) 7 (630.2); 3. Norway (Pemille Nor-Woll, Jens Oestli) 17 (627.4); 4. Italy (Anna Schiavon, Luca Sbarbati) 13 (626.6); 7. India (Swati Chowdhury, Saalim) 624.3.
Mixed air pistol: 1. Korea (Kim Juri, Kim Kanghyun) 16 (577); 2. India (Sainyam, Abhinav Choudhary) 12 (578); 3. India-2 (Suruchi Singh, Shubham Bisla) 16 (571); 4. Uzbekistan (Nigina Saidkulova, Mukhammad Kamalov) 14 (571).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Shashikanth breaks Cliffod's 23-year-old record of

V.A. Shashikanth clocked 20.8s to break Cliffod Joshva's men's 200m record of 21.0s that stood for 23 years, at the State senior athletics championships here on Sunday.

The gold also helped Shashikanth complete the sprint double, having won the 100m dash on Saturday.

The results (winners):
Men: 200m: V.A. Shashikanth, 20.8s (NMR; OR: 21.0s, Cliffod Joshva, 2000); **800m:** Rahul Choudhari, 1:53.3; **10000m:** Vaibhav M. Patil, 32:26.00; **400m hurdles:** Akshay Chavan, 53.7; **3000m steeplechase:** Nagaraj Divate, 9:29.8; **Hammer throw:** Sachin, 43.32m.

Women: 200m: Kaveri Patil, 24.6s; **800m:** E.B. Arpitha, 2:11.2; **10000m:** N.L. Thejaswi, 40:51.7; **400m hurdles:** Sinchal Kaveramma, 1:00.1; **3000m steeplechase:** Shahin Shamshoddin, 12:10.8; **High jump:** M.S. Sinchana, 1.70m; **Long jump:** Pavana Nagaraj, 5.84; **Pole vault:** G. Sindhushree, 3.80; **Hammer throw:** Amreen, 45.33; **Heptathlon:** Rakshitha, 3515 points.

Rithika nets Legends De Sporting's winner in injury-time

Rithika Babu scored an injury-time winner as Legends De Sporting edged Young Stars FC 2-1 in the KSFA women's A-div league at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Sunday.

The results: Legends De Sporting FC 2 (S. Neelavathi 54, Rithika Babu 70+3) bt Young Stars FC 1 (Michelle Davidson 30); United FC Kodagu 2 (Mangpineng Khongsai 35+2, 54) bt Pass FC 0; Bengaluru FC 3 (Tanvi Nair 9, Annika Navneet 24, Ruthu Sreenandan 64) bt GRK Girls FC 0.
KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league: Samba FC 8 (Kabiraj Kisan 11, Shivnesh Kumar 13, Steve Vinod 15, 29, 33, 65, R. Sanjay Prasad 18, Suhrid Thacker 50) bt Annsh Sports Club 0; Shooters 4 (P. Musfardheen 61, 67, Jeff K. Rymbai 62, 70+4) bt Infinite Belagavi City 2 (Prantchigare 21, Dhananjay Sulgeker 47).

Superb knock: Van Lingen's century powered Namibia to a series-levelling win against Karnataka. TWITTER/CRICKETNAMIBIA1

Namibia runs down a huge target to draw level

CRICKET

Sports Bureau

Namibia drew level with Karnataka in the five-match series, chasing down a 361-run target with five wickets to spare, in the second game at Windhoek (Namibia) on Sunday.

Asked to bat, Karnataka rode on L.R. Chethan's 169 (147b, 13x4, 8x6) and Nikin Jose's 103 (109b, 5x4, 2x6). K.V. Siddharth provided the finishing kick, scoring an unbeaten 59 off just 27 balls, comprising a whopping six maximums and a solitary four.

But Michael van Lingen (104, 85b, 7x5, 5x6), Gerhard Erasmus (91, 67b, 8x4, 2x6), Nikolaas Davin (70, 62b, 10x4, 2x6) and Stephen Baard (57, 68b, 4x5) helped the hosts reach the target with a ball to spare.

The scores: Karnataka 360/4 in 50 overs (L.R. Chethan 169, Nikin Jose 103, K.V. Siddharth 59 n.o.) lost to Namibia 362/5 in 49.5 overs (Stephan Baard 57, Nikolaas Davin 70, Michael van Lingen 104, Gerhard Erasmus 91).

Diaz bids farewell to Real after 11 years

Agencies
MADRID

Mariano Diaz is set to leave Real Madrid. The 29-year-old Dominican international joined the Spanish giant in 2011 and played for the C and B teams before making his debut for the first team in 2016.

He scored six goals in 52 league appearances for Real Madrid.

THE HINDU
EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Get set for a green future

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

On World Environment Day, a look at why we need to focus on empowering our youth to thrive in a green economy

Manav Subodh

Sustainability is no longer just a buzzword. It is a necessity and the primary agenda of the world today. Like many other countries, India too is witnessing a growth of its green economy.

It is estimated that India's renewable energy target will create more than 3.4 million new job opportunities by 2030. This does not even take into account the number of jobs that will emerge, as the sustainability sector grows: in waste management, green building design, clean technology, sustainable agriculture, environmental consulting and so on. In fact, a recent survey stated that a Sustainability Manager is going to be one of the top 10 jobs this decade.

While the system is slowly re-aligning itself to function at the pivot of sustainability, the question is: What do we need to do to empower our youth to inhabit and thrive in this booming green economy? There are three parts to this answer:

In school

At the very foundation of our unsustainable behaviours was a mindset that was not cognisant of or curious about the impact of our actions on the environment. If we want to save our planet, we need to change this. To do this, we need a different teaching approach.

We need to inculcate a sustainability mindset in every student in the same way that we focus on developing a problem-solving or a growth mindset. Students should be given opportunities to engage with their communities and neighbourhoods to carry out small-scale sustainable projects.

Like 16-year-old Aryan Rajvanshi from Ahmedabad who leveraged drone technology to advise farmers in Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh on how to optimally use fertilisers, enabling them to save soil. Another example is Ananya Malde (15) from Bengaluru, who ran an awareness programme on sustainable menstruation for rural women in the tribal areas of Gujarat. Four-teen-year-old Ishaan Gupta from Delhi created solar-powered low-cost water filtration units for people at the grassroots.

Whether it is rain-water harvesting, reviving lakes, educating people on fast fashion or even natural disaster management, these projects can encourage students to look at sustainability through the lens of innovation and will equip them with the necessary perspective and competencies to thrive in the green economy.

Like AI, Media Studies and other skills, Sustainability can be introduced as a skill subject with a 25-hour curriculum for Classes 6 to 8. This will go a long way in creating a sustainability mindset at the right age.

At university

For our green economy to gain traction and generate impact, we need our complete ecosystem to be built around sustainability. While many universities in India are beginning to offer courses in sustainability, environmental science, and renewable energy, we need to think more systematically.

Sustainability needs to be taught as a horizontal, and not just as a specialised vertical at school and university. We need engineers to innovate on EVs and other green technologies, lawyers who specialise in sustainability policies and programmers who care about the environment, work on low power and are willing to use their technical prowess to fight climate change and innovate accordingly. It is imperative that educational institutions, policymakers and civil society organisations come together to transform the way our current education systems work. And to put sustainability at the core of it all.

Skilling workers

This is, perhaps, the most urgent of all. How can we help the current workforce transition to this green economy? The clean energy jobs of the future will be highly skilled roles. We need to set up systems and devise mechanisms to upskill and reskill workers by investing in workforce training, learning courses and local programmes that enable them to consider a green career and enhance their future employability.

If India wants to become the global green hub, we need to think about how we can integrate sustainability across the different layers of our education and skilling systems.

We need to focus on empowering our youth to ace this transition and come up with better jobs, and a greener planet.

The writer is the Founder of One Million for One Billion (1M1B).

THE HINDU GROUP

ONE-MINUTE READS ARE PERFECT. IF YOU LIKE KEEPING IT SHALLOW.

Perspective and knowledge have always been at the core of Frontline. Evolving with our readers, the all-new redesigned Frontline enriches your experience further with a re-engineered design and content mix.

FRONTLINE
Re-engineered. For smarter reading.

NOW ON STANDS

To subscribe and experience the new Frontline e-magazine scan the QR code or visit **bit.ly/FLEBook**